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CIS Committee Reports on Performance of Ruble

MK0709114793 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 49, 7 Sep 93 (Signed to Press 6 Sep) p 3

[Unattributed INTERFAX report in "Money" column: "In 1993, the Ruble Has Depreciated 291-Fold"]

[Text] The CIS Statistics Committee has submitted a report "On the Economic Situation of the Commonwealth Countries." According to the committee, in spite of the shrinking of the ruble zone, the emission of money in the first six months of 1993 exceeded the 1992 yearly emission by 2.2 times. In 1992 the money emission amounted to approximately 2 trillion rubles [R] (an increase of 15.4 times; in the last two years—74 times); the credit emission amounted to R8.4 trillion (a growth of 11.7 and 23.1 times, respectively).

As of the beginning of 1993, the overall sum of household monetary resources on deposit, in bonds, securities (not counting privatization vouchers), and cash was estimated at R4.1 trillion, or 4.2 times more than a year ago and 8.3 times more than at the beginning of the 1990's.

The overall money supply (cash and non-cash) in the Commonwealth countries at the beginning of this year was estimated at R11.3 trillion, or 7.4 times more than at the beginning of last year and 14.5 times more than at the beginning of 1990. Given the fall in the gross domestic product, it could be assumed that the surplus money supply (responsible for inflation) has increased ninefold this year and 20-fold over the past three years. In 1990, the average monthly inflation rate was 2 percent, in 1991—5 percent, and in 1992—20 percent.

Following a sharp increase in prices and the emission of a large amount of rubles not backed by goods, already in June 1991 the ruble depreciated 2.5 times, while its purchasing power, compared with October 1990, was 40 kopecks; in December 1991—3.5 times and 28.5 kopecks, respectively (calculations are based on the consumer price index). In June 1992 the ruble depreciated 31-fold and its purchasing power amounted to 3.2 kopecks; in December 1992—73- fold and a mere 1.4 kopecks; and in June 1993—291-fold and 0.3 kopecks, respectively.

Credit emission preceded the emission of cash and its subsequent depreciation. As of 1 June 1993, credit investments made up R18.7 trillion, a 2.5-fold increase since 1 January.

Following the rupture of established economic links and a shortage of cash and noncash resources in circulation, nonpayments among enterprises and organizations have been growing. Overdue debts as of 1 April 1993, compared with the end of 1990, have grown by 67.7 times and exceeded R2 trillion.

Russian Official Hails CIS Ruble Accord

LD0809190593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1141 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep—The agreement between the six CIS states on practical measures toward creating a new-style ruble zone is a great common victory, Aleksandr Pochinok, chairman of the Russian parliament's plan and budget committee, has stated. "It is not a Russian victory over the other countries, but a common victory," he stressed in an interview to an ITAR-TASS correspondent. "Now there is the opportunity to preserve the stability of the financial situation throughout a huge part of the former USSR," the parliamentary commission chairman said.

Aleksandr Pochinok noted that "now Russia, at least, will be able to build its relations with the other states in a civilized manner; that is, from now on we are not obliged to give them as many Russian rubles as they may want." He explained that the Russian currency—the ruble—will function throughout a wide area, while Russia will remain the issuing center, and the size of the issue will be determined in Moscow. "Certain agreed conditions will arise under which we will give a certain amount of money," Aleksandr Pochinok elaborated, as long as the agreement is carried out, although I hope that it will become a fundamental part of the agreements at the coming meeting of CIS heads of state at the end of September, he noted.

At the same time Aleksandr Pochinok expressed concern that, under the flag of the agreement signed by the heads of governments of the six countries on 7 September, "there should not again be huge flows of credit resources out of Russia in any direction." This would discredit and destroy the Russian state's entire financial system, the chairman of the plan and budget commission stated.

Principles of Ruble Zone Outlined

PM0809143793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "The Idea of Economic Union Within the CIS Framework Is Starting To Be Implemented"]

[Text] Despite the postponement of the meeting of the CIS countries' heads of state and government scheduled for 7 September for the purpose of creating an economic union within the framework of the Commonwealth, a serious step toward this goal has nonetheless been taken. The ceremony of signing the agreement on practical measures to create a new type of ruble zone took place in Moscow today. It was signed by representatives of the governments of Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Belarus, and Tajikistan and also by representatives of these countries' national banks.

The document states, in particular, that in expressing the desire to have a common monetary system using the ruble—the currency of the Russian Federation—as legal tender on the territory of the sides, the parties to the agreement proceed from the premise that the necessary conditions for creating a new type of ruble zone are the coordinated nature of the main parameters of economic policy and the standardization of the principles of customs, tax, budgetary, banking, and currency legislation and of the methods of money and credit regulation and of ensuring the free movement of goods, investments, and manpower among the sides' territories. Following the realization of the aforesaid preconditions by each of the sides, the switch to a common monetary system with the Russian Federation will be regulated and determined by separate bilateral agreements.

The Russian Federation Government and the Central Bank of Russia are adopting pledges to place at the sides' disposal the current legislative and normative acts in the sphere of financial, money-credit, currency, and customs regulation no later than 15 September this year. The first step in creating the ruble zone will be to ensure the stable functioning of the existing monetary systems, with their monetary units being used in cash circulation. The states which are parties to this agreement can, if necessary, introduce their own money bills during the transitional period. The sides will coordinate the amount of money on the territory of the states which are parties to the agreement, the size of the deficits of the consolidated budgets and of the indicators for regulating the activities of commercial banks, and the interest rates on credits. The sides can use the 1961-1992-pattern money bills of the USSR State Bank and the Bank of Russia as legal tender on their own territory. They will be exchanged for rubles of the Russian Federation on the basis of bilateral agreements.

V. Chernomyrdin declared that he is very satisfied with the agreement signed, because he considers it a serious step to eliminate many problems caused by the rupture of economic ties.

V. Gerashchenko, chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, spoke of the agreement with restrained optimism. The chief thing, he said, is that the illogical practice whereby, given the fact that there was one currency in circulation, there were 12 emission banks in existence is coming to an end.

Celebrations Said Premature

PM0809134193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Sep 93 p 1

[Igor Petrov "Commentary": "A Monetary Sign of Hope"]

[Text] The fate of the ruble zone, which contracted sharply after the well-known action by the Central Bank of Russia, remains at the center of the specialists' attention. That is understandable because the state of money circulation and the strength of the national currency largely determines any country's economic health. That is why the official talks on the entry of some CIS states into the Russian currency area acquires special significance and dramatic impact.

For objectivity's sake it should be noted that the Central Bank of Russia's actions considerably encouraged and accelerated the talks on the creation of the "ruble zone of the new type," as stated by the presidents of Russia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan. Under the partners' proposal, a single unit of currency—the 1993 issue Russian Federation ruble—is to be used in this zone. In principle this situation existed before 1 July last year when financial and trade relations between the former republics of the USSR began to be exercised via reciprocal correspondent accounts in those countries' state banks. But even after the introduction of the system of correspondent accounts Russia financed its neighbors virtually free of charge via the so-called "technical credits."

What is due to change in the new conditions? In the opinion of Finance Ministry specialists, any agreements on the use of a single currency are to be viewed from the standpoint of Russia's national interests. The main aim is to prevent the uncontrolled exodus of Russia's material resources and strategic raw materials to the countries of the nearby and distant foreign parts. That is the purpose of the agreement on practical measures to create the ruble zone of the new type signed by the representatives of Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Armenia. Belarus and Tajikistan also affiliated to it at the last moment.

What commitments are being assumed by the countries party to the agreement? First, to coordinate the main parameters of economic policy. This means that their customs, banking, taxation, and currency legislation must be brought into line with one another. Second, these countries must agree on methods regarding money and credit regulation and ensuring the free exchange of goods and manpower. Even the volumes of money supply on the territory of the states, the size of consolidated budget deficits, and credit rates must be coordinated. Ensuring the stable functioning of the money systems of all the sides is a first step toward creating the ruble zone. In practice this will mean making commitments to support a stable exchange rate for their own currencies against the Russian ruble so as to enable them to be freely converted.

However, despite the clearly advanced nature of the talks on the formation of the ruble zone we should be under no illusions, nor should we celebrate too soon. According to the forecasts of Finance Ministry experts, the main disagreements will come to light precisely during the process of reaching bilateral agreements between Russia and each of the republics individually. In any event the Russian Government has no intention of twisting anyone's arm, nor does it intend foregoing its own economic interests.

Leaders in Vilnius Seek Wider Cooperation

PM0809094193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 93 First Edition p 7

[Yuriy Stroganov report: "Baltic: United Policy Emerging"]

[Text] Vilnius—Supporters of a united policy for the three Baltic countries are satisfied—these countries' positions are converging more and more quickly. A meeting has been held in Riga attended by the leaders of a number of sectors in the states, as well as by the Latvian and Lithuanian prime ministers. The Estonian premier did not travel to Riga. There are various views about the reasons for his absence.

Nonetheless, the meeting demonstrated political unity, as was the case in the "romantic" times of general rule by right-wing radicals, and thereby paid its respects to the necessary conventions. Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs and his colleague Adolfas Slezevicius expressed confidence that a tripartite free-trade agreement would be signed in Tallinn 13 September. The IMF—the main adviser to many of the former Soviet republics—has long advocated the signing of such an agreement.

Russia and Russian citizens were almost invisible participants in the Riga meeting. Not only in the shape of a threatening neighbor—as some people believe. However much the Baltic sisters may try to stay isolated behind their borders, there is no getting away from the laws of economics and the previous 50 years of reality.

This was also seen in the dispute over the construction of an oil terminal on the Baltic coast at Baitai in Lithuania. The oil terminal is needed since it will make it possible to reduce dependence on Russian energy resources. The oil could come in by sea, from any country's tankers. The giant Mazeikiai Oil Refinery, originally built by specialists from many Union republics, would become one of the cornerstones of the Lithuanian economy.

But the Latvians are worried—the terminal would be near the Latvian border and could harm fishing. They are proposing that a longstanding similar installation at Ventspils be used. Lithuania thinks differently. Prime Minister A. Slezevicius is confident that the installation will be environmentally friendly and, above all, its capacity will exceed the potential of the Ventspils terminal. Even the most important energy installation in the region—the Ignalina Nuclear Power Station—was studied by the meeting's participants with a view to avoiding dependence on Russia, since the nuclear fuel is also sold by Moscow.

Nonetheless, Lithuania is more "favorably inclined" toward Russia—it has taken a softer stance on the problems of Kaliningrad Oblast, which is cut off from the main territory of the country. Thus, in the Lithuanian delegation's opinion, the oblast residents should enjoy privileges when transiting the Baltic countries. Incidentally, Latvia agreed to discuss this problem, but for economic reasons rather than reasons of good-neighborliness—Kaliningrad Oblast could be the shortest route to the respectable West. Now the Russian oblast, which is in such an awkward position owing to being cut off from Russia and dependent on the Baltic, can enjoy the advantages of its position.

Other problems were discussed too. Thus, all three states are striving to become associate members of the EC. It was proposed to set up a coordinating council of Baltic governments, to establish a common information center in Moscow, and to coordinate foreign policy principles.

Oil Output in 1994 May Total 327 Million Tonnes

LD0809171593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1504 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Ivantsov]

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—Oil output in Russia is expected to amount to 327 million tonnes next year and the volume of refined products is to reach 225 million tonnes. The output of gas is to increase by 10-12 billion cubic metres and reach 650-660 billion cubic metres. The slumping of oil production will not be stopped completely in the coming few years, although there is a real chance to substantially slow down the decrease rates, it is noted in the draft programme to promote cooperation in the petroleum and gas industry and to stabilise the situation in the fuel sector in 1994-1995.

The document was discussed today by a working meeting of the Council of Ministers from countries-members of the Inter- Governmental Petroleum and Gas Council, who head national fuel and energy bodies in their respective states. The project was drawn up by the "Asotek" association on the initiative of council members and forwarded to experts working on a joint strategy to surmount the current crisis in the oil and gas industry.

Nikolay Pravednikov, president of the "Asotek" association, believes that this level of output will on the whole meet the requirements of Russia, although there will be a definite deficit in the supply of oil and gas to council member-states.

The cooperation strategy envisages the mutual participation of council members in the development of the Russian oil and gas industry. This refers, in particular, to the approximation of the legislations governing the tapping of natural resources, taxation and financial settlements among all the sides concerned. It is planned to substantially facilitate the launching of joint ventures by council member-states through direct negotiations without any tenders, to facilitate access to information on the development of deposits, and to exempt mutual deliveries of materials and equipment from customs duties.

To settle the problem of debts, the project gives fuel and energy enterprises the right to exchange shares, envisages the leasing of such enterprises, the joint construction of oil and gas pipelines and the extension of gas pipelines to several regions of Russia. In order to accelerate financial exchanges, it is planned to organise a single inter-governmental bank with the participation of council member-states.

The inter-governmental petroleum and gas council was set up last March in Surgut, the oil centre of western Siberia, by representatives of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

Industrialists Urge Joint Efforts To Aid Agriculture

MK0809072193 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 93 p 1

[Nikolay Ulyanov report under the "In Brief" column: "Agriculture Under Threat!"]

[Text] Yesterday the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA editorial board received the text of an open letter to Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin. Written by Arkadiy Volskiy and Vasiliy Starodubtsev, the letter describes the catastrophic situation in Russia's agriculture and gives an account of anticrisis measures taken by the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, which encompasses 21 countries, and the CIS Peasants Union. The authors note, however, that efforts currently undertaken are plainly insufficient and they urge that those to whom the letter is addressed along with the leaders of other CIS countries assist in the common cause. Among other things, it is suggested that the Russian Federation Economy Ministry submit to CIS heads of state and government a proposal for setting up multinational corporations to produce machines and equipment vital for agriculture.

Communications Meeting Ends in Chisinau

LD0709214993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1604 GMT 7 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau September 7 TASS—A regular meeting of the council of administration heads and plenipotentiaries of regional communications cooperation has ended here today.

"The meeting showed our communications community has not only allowed to preserve the potential but also to increase it and bring the cooperation to a qualitatively new stage," Moldovan Minister of Information, Information Science and Telecommunications Ion Kasyan told ITAR-TASS.

"The fact representatives of all former Soviet republics attended the meeting is a proof to it. Estonia, which previously participated only in discussion of issues it is interested in, received the observer status on Monday. The community is growing, the Pakistani administration, telecom and Germany also intend to join it.

"The meeting was attended by representatives of international organizations, Intersputnik and Eutelsat, who delivered reports on possibilities of cooperation. Representatives of the Inter-state Aviation Committee and the Intertelecom joint stock society were admitted to the council commission as observers."

The Kishinev meeting was estimated as a success by its participants. The community council took decisions on the majority of issues of mutual interest. Heads of administrations agreed on indexation of costs of joint scientific research in 1993. The council Commission for Communications Economy was instructed to hold a detailed analysis of organization of clearing payments between communications administrations and submit proposals by the beginning of 1994.

The council discussed reports of representatives of the Russian Communications Ministry, the Ostankino State TV and Radio Company and the Russian State TV and Radio Company on the use by council communications administrations of radio broadcast facilities and voiced the need for their joint use for broadcast of radio programs on territory of the former Soviet Union.

In this connection it was decided to annually conclude agreements on rent of technical means between communications enterprises and TV and radio companies on the basis of an agreement between communications administrations.

They also discussed the coordination of the use of frequencies in the range of 30-1,000 MHerz by stations of land mobile and stationary services in border areas of the states. The council recommended communications administrations to conclude bilateral agreements to the effect and inform of it the international electric communications union.

The meeting participants agreed on the use of reserve codes for organization of incoming inter-city and international telephone communications to the subscribers located on territories of states in the seventh zone of world numeration.

It was decided to share reserve codes (500-599) between states of this zone in proportion to the number of previously allocated codes of zones of general telephone network.

The next meeting of the council will be held in December, 1993, in Minsk.

Grachev Arrives in Washington; Agenda Outlined

LD0809185593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1816 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korolyov]

[Text] Washington September 8 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev arrived on an official visit to the United States on Wednesday [8 September].

After landing at the Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, where high-ranking foreign guests arrive, he was taken aboard a military helicopter and flew to the Pentagon.

During a ceremonial reception given on the occasion of the arrival of the high-ranking Russian guest, Russian and American anthems were played and an artillery salute was fired.

The welcoming ceremony was attended by U.S. Defence Minister Les Aspin, Chairman of the Joint Committee of Chiefs of Staff, Colin Powell, and other officials from the U.S. Defence Department.

During talks which began upon completion of the ceremony, the leaders of two military departments of the two countries are expected to finalize a memorandum on mutual understanding envisaging further expansion of contacts between the United States and Russia in the military field. The defence ministers are expected to put their signatures under the document later today.

During the two-day visit to the U.S. capital the Russian defence minister is to meet U.S. President Bill Clinton in the White House. The sides are expected to exchange opinions on the military-political situation on the Eurasian continent.

Upon completion of his visit to Washington the Russian defence minister will make a short trip around the country, visit a number of U.S. military bases and meet with representatives of the command of the U.S. Armed Forces. Grachev will attend military exercises conducted by U.S. military units to compare the experience accumulated by the two countries in this field.

Meets Clinton, Aspin

LD0909052693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0502 GMT 9 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] Washington September 9 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev met U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House on Wednesday [8 September] while the Russian minister had talks with the President's National Security Adviser Anthony Lake, who was joined by the American leader later. ITAR-TASS learnt from the White House spokesman that the talks were of "a general character" and dealt with issues of mutual interests.

In turn, a high-ranking Pentagon representative who refused to be identified, revealed some particulars of past discussions. He noted that Clinton again expressed support for Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his admiration at the Russian leaders' determination to push forward the democratic process.

Somewhat earlier, Grachev held talks with U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin. The Pentagon representative said that an understanding between the sides to draft details of a plan "to speed up the process of withdrawing nuclear weapons" was among the results of those talks. According to the representative, this implies dismantling nuclear warheads ahead of schedule set by the treaty on the reduction of nuclear weapons as well as retargeting of U.S. and Russian missiles.

Grachev came to the United States on an official four-day visit. He will go on a tour of the country this afternoon, during which he will visit several U.S. military bases and meet representatives of the U.S. military command.

Signs Military Cooperation Memorandum

LD0909083993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0532 GMT 9 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Korolev]

[Text] Washington September 9—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev who arrived in the United States on an official visit, held intensive talks with U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin on Wednesday [8 September]. After the meeting, the sides signed a memorandum of understanding setting the framework for further cooperation, dialogue and contacts between the Defence Ministries of the two countries.

The signing of this document, Aspin said, shows again that relations between the two countries are going through historic transformation. The document became a direct result of the Vancouver summit between Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin where they announced the establishment of strategic partnership, in which military and defence relations play a leading role.

The present understanding indicates that the well-being and security of the United States and the Russian Federation have a vitally important mutual relation, the secretary added. It is aimed at leaving behind the years of rivalry and nuclear confrontation as well as at laying a foundation for the future by establishing various official contacts between the two military departments.

The secretary dwelt at length on two "important initiatives". He said that the two countries plan peace-keeping exercises which involve forces of the two states. The American side will use for them the Frankfurt-based 3rd Motorised Division commanded by Major-General Leonard Holder. The Russia side will use the 27th Motorised Division commanded by Major-General Anatoliy Sidyakin.

Secondly, Aspin said, the two sides work on building "a hot line" between the two Defence Ministries which will help establish quick and direct contacts.

Grachev noted that relations between Washigton and Moscow "have considerably strengthened over the past two years and switched to the course of strategic cooperation to ensure security of the two states as well as our allies". The present visit contributes "even to greater mutual rapprochement and strengthening of contacts between them". The two sides mapped out new areas for cooperation, including peace-keeping activities and the establishment of "a hot line" between the two military departments "to tackle quickly emerging problems, including surprise events".

"We agreed," the Russian minister said, "to stage joint exercises in 1994 both between naval forces and other services". Exchanges between servicemen will increase. They will study at higher educational establishments of the opposite country. Delegations will be exchanged more frequently. They will be exchanged at the level of ministers and down to the level of soldiers. "More specific steps, including those on the destruction and reduction of strategic offensive weapons, were outlined to lessen the nuclear threat," Grachev continued.

The sides also set up several working groups which will tackle various problems, including U.S. aid in the construction of housing for discharged Russian servicemen.

The minister stressed that "Russia pays much attention to military cooperation with the United States and will do its utmost to consolidate this cooperation".

Replying to journalists, Grachev also said that he "informed the U.S. defence secretary of the situation in the so-called flash points in the former Soviet Union", adding that he intends to discuss "U.S. participation, together with Russian Armed Forces, in their elimination" somewhat later.

In turn, Aspin noted that the U.S. unilaterally changed the rules for its submarines to avoid incidents which happened in the past, including collisions between American and Russian subs. This process has not been completed as yet, he added, and the Russian minister is interested in this problem.

U.S. Funding for Disarmament Programs Noted

PM0809131793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Sep 93 p 3

[Mikhail Pogorelyy report: "The United States Helps Russia To Disarm"]

[Text] Agreements have been signed in Washington on allocating Russian resources to be used for the needs of nuclear disarmament. As is well known, the Nunn-Lugar amendment provides for the allocation of $800 million to dismantle, transport, and destroy components of the nuclear arms of the former USSR, and also to ensure the safe storage of fissionable materials. The current package, worth a total of $85 million, contains funds for the implementation of two projects.

The first of these, the Pentagon statement on this subject notes, envisages ensuring the purchase of special equipment and the training of personnel to work at the storage center for fissionable materials recovered from warheads that is being set up on Russian territory. In the long term, after appropriate treatment, these materials could be offered on the world market as fuel for nuclear electric power stations. The second project is connected with funding the development of a reliable storage and inventory system for radioactive materials.

The agreements were signed before the accords between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents on the nuclear disarmament of Ukraine were agreed on. Obviously, the large-scale measures connected with the dismantling of the Ukrainian arsenal will require, in addition to certain compensation payments promised to Kiev by the U.S. side, sizable expenditure on Russia's part also. As a result, U.S. congressmen will undoubtedly have to return once more to the Nunn-Lugar amendment. Incidentally, experience shows that they are far more willing to allocate funds for disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, than for increasing the potential of weapons of mass destruction.

Solton Commentary Assesses U.S.-Russian Relations

LD0809143393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Commentary by political observer Yuriy Solton]

[Text] Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and the U.S. President Bill Clinton talked on the telephone on Tuesday [7 September], discussing bilateral relations and a number of international issues. A commentary by our observer Yuriy Solton:

[Solton] Russian-American consultations on various levels have become ordinary and routine business. The Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin paid an efficient working level visit to the United States last week. Now the Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is on a visit there. He discusses problems of military cooperation and nuclear disarmament. The U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev are in constant contact. Businessmen maintain contacts on a regular basis.

All this is a positive phenomenon. Declarations of partnership between the two countries are followed up by specific agreements. This does not imply, of course, there is no competition between them, although it is important Russia and the United States seek to resolve competitive issues to their mutual advantage and from the positions of goodwill.

For instance, Bill Clinton confirmed to Boris Yeltsin his administration would seek to abandon the Cold War discriminatory acts that block the normal development of Russian-American trade and economic relations. He also disclosed how the Congress passed the bill to support reforms in Russia, which would require two and a half billion dollars specially earmarked for that purpose.

The mutual destruction of strategic rockets has become a sign of trust between the two countries, although the appropriate agreements have not been ratified. Of considerable importance has been the role played by both Russia and the United States' interaction as cochairmen of a negotiation process for a (?middle) peace agreement to be signed by Israel and Palestine for the first time in the past 45 years. Different approaches are suggested by the two countries to extinguish another hotbed of war in ex-Yugoslavia. The United States is more inclined to resort to power, whereas Russia considers political opportunities have not been used up as yet. And, here again, the leadership of both countries respects the stands taken by each other and makes an allowance for them in the policies they pursue.

During the Cold War period, any variation in the balance of power between Moscow and Washington led to a feverish activity of the international community. In new circumstances, when the formerly potential adversaries are becoming partners, their mutual interaction is still important in the world, although it is directed today at the strengthening of stability and extinguishing old and new hot spots.

Foreign Minister Kozyrev Departs for Afghanistan

LD0809041193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0247 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep—Andrey Kozyrev, head of the Russian Federation foreign department, left today for Afghanistan on a working visit. The agenda of his Kabul negotiations with leaders of the Islamic State of Afghanistan includes issues related to the development of ties and cooperation among countries and a discussion of problems in stabilizing the situation in the region, especiallay on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Immediately after his stay in Kabul the Russian Federation minister will pay working visits to Dushanbe and Bishkek.

Completes Kabul Talks

LD0809192293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1828 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Dushanbe, 8 Sep—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev arrived in Dushanbe this evening, having completed his meetings in Kabul. During his visit he held talks with his Afghan counterpart Hedayat Amin Arsala, had a conversation with Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, and was received by President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Moscow and Kabul are striving to promote cooperation in the spheres of policy, trade and economics, culture, and science and technology in the interests of the peoples of the two states, according to the joint Russian-Afghan communique which was signed at the completion of the Russian foreign minister's working visit to Afghanistan.

In their talks, the sides paid special attention to questions relating to the release of former Soviet servicemen and to the fate of Afghan citizens who went missing during the war.

It was noted in the joint communique that, taking account of the severe damage inflicted on Afghanistan during the period of military intervention by the former Soviet Union, the Russian side expressed its readiness to take part in the reconstruction of this country and in the strengthening of economic stability here. In particular, it has been proposed that Russian mine-clearing experts go to Afghanistan in the near future.

During discussions on international and regional problems, the Russian and Afghan sides confirmed their adherence to the non-use of force or the threat of force against one another. Russia does not have aggressive intentions toward Afghanistan and its territory. The situation in Tajikistan and on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan was given special attention at the talks, the two sides emphasized.

Russia and Afghanistan are convinced that it is possible to settle the internal conflict in Tajikistan by purely political means. The two sides consider that restoring peace and quiet on the Tajik-Afghan border is of paramount importance. They intend to actively contribute to arrangements for a dialogue between Tajikistan's government and the opposition to start. In this context, they welcome the joint Tajik-Afghan declaration of 30 August 1993 on setting up a trilateral commission, in which Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and the directorate of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will take part, ensuring that all Tajik refugees without exception return to their home country voluntarily and without any obstacle being put in their way.

Andrey Kozyrev passed on to President Rabbani an invitation from Russian President Boris Yeltsin to pay an official visit to Russia. He invited Afghanistan's foreign minister to come to Moscow on an official visit.

The talks between Andrey Kozyrev and the Tajik leadership will start in Dushanbe tomorrow. The Tajik foreign minister told an ITAR-TASS correspondent in an interview given on the eve of Andrey Kozyrev's arrival in Dushanbe that the Russian and Tajik sides are planning to discuss a wide range of issues connected with the further development of fraternal cooperation between the two countries, based on equal rights, in various spheres and fields, and to exchange opinions on coordinating efforts directed at bringing the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border back to normal. Andrey Kozyrev has been authorized by the relevant CIS bodies to hold these talks and to examine the whole issue of stabilizing the situation in the region, the minister said.

The Russian and Tajik sides will also consider the preparations for the forthcoming CIS summit due to take place in Moscow on 24 September, and the possibility of taking joint steps at the routine 48th session of the UN General Assembly.

Andrey Kozyrev will visit the no. 10 post of the Moscow border detachment, meet border guards, and familiarize himself with an exhibition of captured weapons on Thursday morning.

He will leave for Bishkek on Thursday night, on the third and final stage of his working trip.

Afghan Prime Minister Comments

LD0909100193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2258 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Kabul, 9 Sep (TASS)—Afghanistan strives to join efforts with Russia in searching for exclusively peaceful solutions to problems: solutions arrived at through negotiations. In this context, Kabul is finding a common language with Moscow, Afghan Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar told journalists following the end of his talks with Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who was here on a brief working visit.

In this context, the Afghan prime minister assured the Russian foreign minister that several former Soviet servicemen, kept as prisoners of war, would soon be set free as a goodwill gesture. An Afghan representative and the consul general of the Russian Federation are about to visit the place where the prisoners of war are being kept, following Hekmatyar's and Kozyrev's instructions.

Hekmatyar has called the deployment of Russian servicemen along the Tajik-Afghan border an "undesirable and impermissible occurrence." It is his view that questions of protecting the common border primarily concern two states—Afghanistan and Tajikistan. This is the reason, he said, why we support searching for joint decisions through negotiations. In his view these problems "cannot be resolved by military means."

The prime minister touched on the question of Tajik refugees on the territory of Afghanistan and stated that their return home ought to be guaranteed. States with immediate vested interests here must do everything in their power. [sentence incomplete as received] He expressed satisfaction with Kozyrev's statement that Russia would also do everything that is necessary to have this problem resolved.

Hekmatyar replied to journalists' questions. In particular, he was asked whether the printing of Afghan money had been stopped in Russia, as was done earlier on the basis of a mutual accord. The prime minister said he had received assurances from the Russian foreign minister that Afghan money is no longer being printed in Russia. The problem has already been solved.

In conclusion, the prime minister emphasized that Afghanistan was for developing equal and mutually advantageous cooperation with the Russian Federation and for establishing the best possible and propitious relations.

Kozyrev Leaves for Border

LD0909092493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0850 GMT 9 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Galina Gridneva and Georgiy Shmelev]

[Text] Dushanbe, 9 Sep (TASS)—Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev departed by plane this morning for a sector of the Tajik-Afghan border, where he will familiarize himself with the welfare conditions of the border guards and questions of strengthening the border and border safety.

Andrey Kozyrev is expected to meet republican Supreme Soviet Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov and Tajik Foreign Minister Rashid Alimov in the second half of the day. Kozyrev arrived in Dushanbe on Wednesday evening following his visit to Kabul.

Turkish Prime Minister Ciller Arrives in Moscow

Seeks To Reverse 'Cooling' Relations

PM0809111993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Konstantin Eggert: "Russia and Turkey in Search of Common Interests"]

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller begins a visit to Russia 8 September. This is her first visit abroad since Ciller replaced presidential appointee Suleyman Demirel as head of the cabinet.

Although it is preferred not to say it out loud, the trip is manifestly designed to put an end to a period of some cooling of bilateral relations caused by objectively existing contradictions in the Transcaucasus and also an extremely sharp difference of assessment of events in Azerbaijan. Moscow took a favorable view of the removal of President Abulfaz Elchibey, while Ankara was caught unawares by the rapid downfall of this pro-Turkish politician.

The view in Moscow diplomatic circles is that Turkey now takes a more realistic view of what is going on in Baku and is prepared to cooperate with the Aliyev regime. Things currently regarded as Russian strategic interests in Azerbaijan will be firmly defended—that is the lesson conveyed to Ankara this summer, in the Kremlin's view.

At the same time there seems to be a perceptible trend in Moscow toward seriously seeking a long-term balance of interests with Turkey. Tansu Ciller's visit is intended to be an important step in this direction. Mutual economic calculation is not the least factor here. The talks will cover the expansion of gas supplies from Russia and the settlement of the problem of reciprocal nonpayments. The possibility of Turkey opening new credit lines for our country will evidently also be discussed.

It is interesting to note: Judging by our diplomats' calm demeanor, the Foreign Ministry is not upset by recent statements by some Turkish politicians urging strong-arm action against Armenia. "Although the signals coming out of Ankara are sometimes contradictory, we are still inclined to believe the recent statement by President Demirel, who rejected any possibility of military intervention," an informed source at the Russian foreign policy department noted. People in Moscow are convinced that Ankara will remain a firm supporter of exclusively peaceful methods for resolving the conflict.

There is no doubt that during her talks with Boris Yeltsin and Viktor Chernomyrdin Mrs. Ciller will also discuss the question of a visit to Turkey by the Russian president. Ankara had hoped that one would take place at the beginning of this year. The country's public opinion was somewhat irked when the Russian leader instead chose Greece, Turkey's age-old rival. The newspapers started to carry allusions to a resurgence of "czarist Balkan policies" and the creation of some "orthodox bloc" under Moscow's auspices. Russia turned a blind eye to the Turks' dissatisfaction. Ciller's visit could dispel the unpleasant aftertaste left since then.

As far as a Yeltsin visit is concerned, as a diplomat noted, "Ciller's visit could take some of the edge off this issue." Everything depends on the development of the situation within Russia—this is most likely the argument that the Turkish prime minister will hear from her interlocutors.

Welcomed by Chernomyrdin

LD0809104893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1016 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Boris Keivoshey]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep—Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller arrived in the Russian capital today on a two-day official visit. Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin welcomed her at the airport. Tansu Ciller will meet President Boris Yeltsin and have talks with the prime minister. She is also to meet the leadership of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

It is expected that issues of bilateral political and economic cooperation, the situation in the border regions, and problems of settling conflicts by peaceful means will be the center of attention during her talks.

Meets Moscow Mayor, Businessmen

TA0809193893 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has attended a meeting of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce with participating Russian businessmen.

Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov has stated that economic relations between Russia and Turkey started with Turkish contractors joining in the construction projects in Russia in 1984. Stating that Turkish contractors contributed to the development of Moscow and other regions, Luzhkov remarked that Turkish investments had not yet reached desired levels.

In his speech, Ciller stated the need for starting a new period of friendship and cooperation between Turkey and Russia. Stressing the importance of cooperation not only between Russia and Turkey but of a joint comprehensive cooperation with the Black Sea countries and even European countries, Ciller pointed out the parallels between Russia's and Turkey's economies.

Ciller also pointed out that both countries had opted for a market economy in their aim toward development and she added that Turkey had already started transfering to a market economy. Ciller stated the necessity of taking into account elements effecting production costs as well as having a long period of agreement to achieve success in market economy and ability to compete.

Remarking that Turkey envisaged full membership in the EC in 1995 or 1996, Ciller added that Ankara was taking the necessary steps toward economic integration in Europe.

Stating that the EC would further develop with the entry of new members, Ciller stressed that a Europe without Russia was inconceivable.

Yuriy Petrov, Russian deputy minister for foreign economic relations, expressed the need for bilateral information exchange, for preparing joint projects, and furthering foreign commerce potential.

Ciller later answered questions by the businessmen and signed the honor book.

Meets Azerbaijan's Aliyev

TA0809165493 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1610 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Report by Sibel Aksu in Moscow]

[Text] Moscow (AA)—In a statement after meeting with Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet Chairman Geydar Aliyev, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller declared that it was decided—in cooperation with Russia—to take all necessary measures to stop Armenian attacks.

Ciller held a one-hour meeting with Aliyev at the Turkish Embassy in Moscow. In a joint statement at the end of the meeting, Ciller recalled that there are brotherly relations between the two countries and added:

"With Aliyev we discussed the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijan and Armenia's attack on Azerbaijan's territorial integrity. We agreed that as regional countries, we cannot remain spectators to this. We appraised what we can do in cooperation with Russia to stop the attacks. We decided to undertake together, in cooperation with Russia, all the necessary moves to stop the Armenians."

In turn, Aliyev recalled that during his visit in Moscow he conducted talks concerning the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territory. Aliyev stressed that Turkish-Azerbaijani relations have been developing at a fast rate since Azerbaijan gained its independence and this pace will continue. He said: "Turkey cannot remain indifferent to the Armenian occupation of Azerbaijani territory. Turkey will continue to help Azerbaijan in the future as well."

Aliyev also noted that the rapprochement with Russia will not undermine the relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey.

Asked by a reporter if the decision to join the CIS is definite, Aliyev stated that the meeting on the subject will be held on 24 September.

In reply to a question, Ciller announced that the close relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan will always continue. She said that the unjust occupation of Azerbaijan will be discussed during her talks with Russian President Yeltsin and other officials, adding: "We are trying to stop this unjust occupation together, in an atmosphere of improving relations between Turkey and Russia. Azerbaijan and Turkey will remain friends and brothers forever."

Interviewed on Relations

LD0809231093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2040 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Interview with Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller by unidentified announcer and correspondent in Moscow on 8 September; conducted in English with superimposed Russian translation—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Correspondent] This is the first overseas visit by the prime minister of the Turkish Republic since she came to her post in June. And the visit has been made to a neighboring power. We asked Mrs Ciller to answer a few questions. The first was, what intentions and business proposals did the honored guest bring to Moscow?

[Ciller] I think we need to begin to think about a broader Europe. I mean the eastern border of Europe, and the eastern border of Turkey. This broader concept today evidently includes all of Russia. I believe that cooperation between our countries is not only important for stability in our region, but an important factor for the whole continent of Europe. It is one of the guarantees of regional and pan-European peace. I will remind you that we are the largest powers in the Black Sea economic cooperation zone. What we all have to learn is peaceful coexistence with each other in the region. Apart from that, we must take the many opportunities offered to us by the geography and nature of this region.

[Announcer] Arriving in Moscow, how do you see its present stage of development, the development of Russia? First of all from the point of view of Turkey, a neighboring state in the region?

[Ciller] I think that we will again cooperate. Take the aggression by Armenia against Azerbaijan, for example. We think that our joint efforts with Russia may lead to an end to the aggression, an end to the conflict and war. Such peacekeeping cooperation between Turkey and Russia against any sort of terrorism and aggression is possible not only here, but in any part of the world.

There is great potential for economic cooperation as well. Not only in bilateral cooperation, but multilateral as well. On the other hand, not only industrial but financial programs. This could be investment in Russia or in a third country. I would not like to name which, because there are to be talks with Russian leaders tomorrow, and the priority programs of mutual benefit are to be determined there.

[Announcer] We not only see Turkey as a bi-continental country—incidentally, Russia is also in both Europe and Asia. Turkey today is a country of inter-religious tolerance, with many cultures, a country that has broken away from dictatorship and totalitarianism toward democracy and a freely-oriented economy. For Russia much of this is still in the future. What objective and subjective factors have defined Turkey's breakthrough to these new conditions? What has helped you?

[Ciller] It is true, there have been many similarities both in our history and in the development of our countries. Our paths have been parallel in many respects, including the 500 years in which our countries have had diplomatic relations. There have been rises and falls on this path. Incidentally, it was not easy for Turkey to emancipate itself from the hampering legacy of the Ottoman Empire and to become a free and dynamically developing country. And today we are witnessing the birth of a free, democratic, and powerful Russia from the Soviet Union.

I am confident that Russia will discover its identity and experience a great upward surge. Your country is a superpower. As for matters where some work still needs to be done—by the way, they remain important both to you and to us—those are, first of all, a tax reform, and second, privatization.

Apart from that, both Turkey and Russia believe in a social state, in the sense that we look after our citizens—for example, in education, through providing equal opportunities for training, to low-income students among others. [passage omitted]

Both our countries are going though a stage of phasing into market economy. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mrs Prime Minister, you spoke to Azerbaijan's leader Aliyev today. This includes not just the Karabakh conflict but on the whole, what are Turkey's constructive approaches to settling the conflict in the region?

[Ciller] Turkey comes out consistently against any aggression and any kind of terrorism, from wherever it may come - for example, Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

We were opposed to it and paid a high price when we stopped the pumping of oil through the pipeline that crosses our territory. Although we sustained losses, we knew that we were acting correctly. We have acted just as consistently against aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We understand that that is an infringement of human rights, and that it is a moral problem. We have had great difficulty in explaining to our own children what is happening in the center of Europe and why we look on it in that way. We have come out against it.

When independent states appeared after the disintegration of the USSR—including Armenia—we provided them with assistance for their development and helped them, specifically, with medicines and food. We did not favor any single one or several countries, but helped all of them. But when Armenia's aggression began, that was an illegal act for us. It was terrorism, which we interpret in accordance with international law. It was an attack.

As for the second part of your question—what will we do, and what is our initiative?—I will answer as follows. That is one of the reasons for my visit to Moscow. I think that, in this region, we can open a new page, one in which Turkey and Russia will cooperate constructively, trust each other, depend on one another and count on each other, united against aggression, so as to prevent new conflicts and to foster stabilization, regardless of whether it is happening to Armenia, Azerbaijan, or Georgia. Our two countries must be together. After all, they are among the greatest powers in that part of the world, in that part of Asia, the Black Sea region.

During the last quarter, the Turkish economy has had a 12.6 percent growth rate. Russia, I repeat, is a superpower. We are neighbors, and we believe in the people of Russia. It is enough to read the novels of Dostoyevsky, as I did in my youth, in order to understand the problems of a huge people.

In short, I should like a new dawning of cooperation between our countries in the most varied fields—in the economy and in political affairs—for the sake of the stability, I repeat, not only of our region but also of the whole of Europe. [passage omitted]

Signs Agreements With Chernomyrdin

LD0909084593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0830 GMT 9 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller ended their talks this morning with the signing of an intergovernmental Russian-Turkish agreement on avoiding dual taxation on income and of an agreement to set up direct government communications.

A wide range of issues linked, first and foremost, with the development of economic cooperation between both countries was discussed, Chernomyrdin told an ITAR-TASS correspondent following the conclusion of the talks, which lasted about two hours.

Having appraised the talks as positive, the head of the Russian Government stressed that accord had been reached on all the problems under discussion.

Hails 'New Page in Cooperation'

LD0909110193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0954 GMT 9 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Anna Melnikova and Gennadiy Talalayev]

[Text] Moscow, 9 Sep (TASS)—"Russia and Turkey have opened a new page in cooperation with each other," Tansu Ciller, the Turkish prime minister, said today after her meeting in the Kremlin with President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Federation.

Responding to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent, the prime minister noted that "bilateral relations and the world situation" had been discussed during the talks. She said a joint Russo-Turkish press statement on the results of her Moscow talks would be issued.

"I am convinced that the meetings that have been held are in the interests of our two countries," Tansu Ciller stressed.

Kozyrev, Turkish Counterpart Discuss Karabakh Problem

LD0809155093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The situation around Nagorno-Karabakh was discussed during a telephone conversation on Tuesday between the foreign ministers of Russia and Turkey, Andrey Kozyrev and Hikmet Cetin. As ITAR-TASS was told by the press center of the Russian Foreign Ministry, the sides stressed the need for the sides involved in the conflict to display maximum restraint and for the liberation of the territories seized in the course of the conflict. H. Cetin's attention was drawn to the alarming reports coming from the Armenian-Turkish border regarding some actions by Turkish troops stationed near to it.

It was said on the Turkish side that this was a question of a misunderstanding, and readiness was expressed for reciprocal action in the interests of normalizing the situation on that border, guarded by Russian border guards. H. Cetin confirmed the immutability of Turkey's line of active cooperation with Russia in ensuring peace and stability in the regiom.

Turkey's Cetin Warns Armenia Not To Attack Nakhichevan

TA0809162093 Nicosia Bayrak Radio in Turkish 1530 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin has warned that if Armenia attacks Nakhichevan, over which Turkey has legal responsibility, anything could happen.

In a statement to REUTER, Cetin, who is currently in Moscow together with Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, said that if Armenia attacks Nakhichevan, anything could happen and the matter could get out of control. If such a thing happens, Cetin stressed, Armenia will bear the responsibility for it. The Turkish foreign minister noted that this is no longer a problem of Karabakh, it is the occupation of one country by another. Cetin added: We do not view this situation as different from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This must be punished.

Cetin described the seizure of new territory on the part of the Armenians at a time when peace talks are being conducted as a defiance of the international community.

Turkey 'Not Worried' by Iran's Incursion Into Azerbaijan

LD0809164093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister [Hikmet] Cetin has said that Iranian servicemen penetrated for 1-2 km into Azerbaijani territory. However, Turkey is not worried by this. According to Cetin, the Iranian interference was undertaken with the purpose of preventing the crossing of refugees from Azerbaijan into Iranian territory.

This was a report from Radio Svoboda.

Azerbaijan's Aliyev 'Satisfied' With Talks in Moscow

LD0809143293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Telephone report on news conference by Azerbaijan's Acting President Geydar Aliyev, by correspondent Igor Ternyavskiy at the President Hotel in Moscow on 8 September—recorded]

[Text] It must be said that Geydar Aliyev's meeting with journalists was very seriously organized. This was in evidence with a map of the republic, the number of video cameras and, accordingly, the long introductory speech by the acting president of Azerbaijan. What then, did Aliyev talk about? Above all, that the meeting in Moscow had taken place by mutual agreement with the Russian leadership, that the aims of the talks had been achieved, and that Aliyev was satisfied with the talks. As Aliyev said, Moscow will no longer remain an unconcerned observer of the situation in the Caucasus and the Transcaucasus, and intends, basically, to open completely new, qualitatively—as Aliyev put it—new stages in bilateral relations with Baku.

Naturally, the acting president of Azerbaijan also spoke about the Karabakh conflict. Strictly speaking, this was the main subject of his speech. He reported his position as follows: The war is senseless and has already inflicted colossal material and moral losses. Therefore, it is a matter of urgency to stop it. At the same time, Aliyev remarked that Armenia was nevertheless the aggressor, and backed up his argument with the fact that the war was being waged on Azeri territory and 20 percent of the republic's own territory had already been seized. Aliyev now fears lest this war, the conflict itself, becomes international and therefore many attempts will be made; the next attempt has been agreed for 11 September, again in the Russian capital.

The journalists attending the news conference did not miss an opportunity to put to Aliyev various questions about the situation in Azerbaijan, the Karabakh conflict again, and the talks in Moscow. In his replies there was a sound of, rather a manifestation of, frankly, the old school, the old well-tempered style of Soviet times. Aliyev, with extreme skill and dexterity, avoided all the hidden obstacles contained in the journalists' questions. Indeed, he did not hide this. For instance, Aliyev was asked about possible Russian missiles in Azerbaijan, whether Russian missiles would be installed in Azerbaijan, and again about military cooperation, future military cooperation in accordance with results of the talks with Pavel Grachev. In reply to this, Aliyev clearly and honestly said yes, there was no definite information about this, yes, there were certain results, but he would say nothing. When it was suggested, for instance, that he might make an assessment of the activities of Azeri Prime Minister Surat Guseynov, Aliyev said that this was a provocative question.

In a word, the new and, will we say, returned leader of Azerbaijan is a very subtle and skillful politician and, of course, a tough man. He also gave the impression that he is a man full of self-confidence. Incidentally, Aliyev also directly said that he was convinced of his victory in the elections. But along with this, simultaneously with these words, he sketched a picture of the future Azerbaijan. According to him this Azerbaijan, the future Azerbaijan, would consist of friendship with all the surrounding countries, with all the contiguous countries, of peace with Armenia, and of greater orientation, of course, greater orientation toward Russia. As for life inside Azerbaijan, this would consist of a skillful combination of democratic principles with state discipline, law and order, and responsibility. However, Aliyev stressed at the same time that he was not in any way an authoritarian politician, which he had been accused of being, for instance, by some of the Western news media.

Commentary Assesses Armenian-Azerbaijani Conflict

NC0809113193 Moscow Radio Moscow in Persian 1330 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Sergey Viktorov commentary from "The World Today" feature]

[Text] Dear listeners, Iran asked Armenia to withdraw its forces from Azerbaijan and threatened that it would not remain indifferent to such aggression. Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said this in a telephone conversation with Vahan Papazyan, his Armenian counterpart.

Despite his remarks, Dr. Velayati stressed that Iran wants to help resolve the current differences between the two countries at the negotiating table. IRNA reported that Papazyan said the Nagorno-Karabakh Armenians will cease their attacks and soon pull out their units from the occupied areas in Azerbaijan.

It is difficult to say how far these remarks are in line with the plans of the leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh. Most political observers believe it is highly unlikely that the leadership in Nagorno-Karabakh, especially the commanders of the Armenians, will hasten to withdraw their forces from the occupied areas in southwest Azerbaijan.

Of course, it would not be too farfetched if the Nagorno-Karabakh leadership were to disseminate peaceseeking statements. But, Stepanakert's political objectives are very clear. The leadership of Nagorno-Karabakh strives to gain control of as much of Azerbaijan's territory as possible and to rout the Azerbaijani Armed Forces for this purpose.

The leaders of Nagorno-Karabakh think they must haggle as much as possible in the upcoming talks on Nagorno-Karabakh, an Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan, the Lachin corridor, and other differences. But, while trying to resolve political issues on the battlefield, the Nagorno-Karabakh leaders have dramatically altered the general political conditions, which does not benefit their historical homeland of Armenia.

Although Yerevan's officials are trying their best to (?distance) themselves from the victories of Nagorno-Karabakh, they have had to face the stiff stances of Ankara and Tehran. Russia, a major Armenian ally in the CIS, does not view the occupation of Azerbaijani territory by Armenian units in a positive light.

In any case, observers believe that the (?operations) by the Nagorno-Karabakh units in the war have been instrumental in changing the leadership in Azerbaijan and transforming Baku's political strategy to a great extent. Contrary to the different prognostications that have been voiced, these victories have motivated Azerbaijan to forge closer relations with Moscow instead of with regional countries. This is further confirmed by Geydar Aliyev's visit to the Russian capital yesterday.

As far as it is known, the issue of Azerbaijan joining the CIS is being propounded. The Azerbaijani leader has given a definite assurance that he will participate in the CIS summit session at the end of this month. Thus, if Baku is actually accepted by the CIS as a member, Yerevan will be deprived of its greater superiority as a member of the CIS and its participation in a collective security agreement.

As can be perceived, although weapons are as important today as they were in the past, they do not, ultimately, play a very decisive role. It would not be too improbable if the side that strives to use more weapons were to become completely isolated. Negotiations are the sole means for resolving differences. The sooner the sides commence talks—whether for the benefit of two neighboring countries or the stability of the entire region—the better.

Armenian Delegation, Grachev Discuss Conflict

LD0709180093 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1620 GMT 7 Sep 93

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Sep—Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Defense minister, had a meeting today with Vazgen Sarkisyan, Armenia's minister of state for defense matters. The Russian Defense Ministry's readiness to promote a settlement of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, expressed during Pavel Grachev's meeting with Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev the previous day, was thus put into effect.

During the conversation between the military leaders of Russia and Armenia, which was attended by Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces, the situation that has developed in the region was discussed, and possible ways of resolving the international crisis were identified.

Azerbaijani Delegation Fails To Arrive for Karabakh Talks

LD0809153193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1129 GMT 8 Sep 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep—The latest round of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh talks, which should have been held in

Moscow today, has been disrupted. The Azerbaijani delegation failed to arrive at the talks.

Arkadiy Gukasyan, minister of foreign affairs of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and head of the Karabakh delegation, said in a conversation with the ITAR-TASS correspondent that "the Karabakh side attaches great importance to these talks." Planned for 5 September, they were postponed until 9 September at the request of Azerbaijan, and now the Azerbaijani side has failed to arrive without notifying the Karabakh side of this. In the words of Arkadiy Gukasyan, the extension of the cease-fire in force in the conflict zone until 10 September is in jeopardy. Moreover, preparations were to have been continued at the talks for the forthcoming meeting between the leaders of Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh. The head of the foreign policy department of the NKR laid the blame for the disruption of this round of talks on the Azerbaijani side.

The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is acting as a mediator in the talks, that the Azerbaijani side failed to arrive for the talks because of the personal circumstances of the delegation's leader Affiyatdin Dzhalilov, deputy chairman of the parliament of Azerbaijan, and because of the extension by one day of the visit to Moscow by Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported that the talks have been postponed.

Foreign Ministry Warns of 'Spread' of Karabakh Conflict

LD0809184593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1732 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—"The dangerous spread of the zone of the Karabakh conflict, which is producing serious military-political and humanitarian consequences, is evoking heightened concern. The seizure of a number of rayons in Azerbaijan beyond the borders of Nagorno-Karabakh is imparting new, impermissible features of aggression to the conflict," according to a statement issued by the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

These offensive operations, the statement notes, are perceived by the whole of the international community as a lack of respect for the peace-keeping efforts of the CSCE, the United Nations, and many states. They are all the more intolerable at the present time when approaches toward halting the military actions, providing for withdrawal from occupied territories, and developing the process of political settlement have been found on the basis of the UN Security Council resolution at the Minsk group of the CSCE and in direct contacts with the conflicting sides.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia welcomes and values the willingness of Iran and Turkey to participate in consultations on the situation that has been created in the region. In conditions of increased tension, circumspection and maximum restraint are particularly important. The increase in military activity on the borders, demonstrations of strength, and bellicose statements are counterproductive, the statement stresses, for they do not resolve the problems of a settlement; they create fresh complications, and lead to the dangerous brink of internationalization of the conflict.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that Russia is consistently pursuing a course directed at putting a stop to military actions and at a political settlement in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Foreign Ministry Concerned With Situation in Abkhazia

LD0809122793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1045 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep—The Russian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement in which it expresses concern over disruptions in the process of normalization in Abkhazia. The Foreign Ministry statement says that according to information at hand, armed formations under the command of Loti Kobaliya entered Galskiy Rayon in Abkhazia and seized some of the military hardware and heavy weaponry located there that was due to be withdrawn from the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict zone in line with the Sochi cease-fire agreement of 27 July 1993.

The statement describes these events as a serious threat to the settlement process that was emerging in Abkhazia as a result of efforts undertaken over the past month by all the involved sides.

The Foreign Ministry appeals to the Georgian side to do its utmost to ensure that armed formations leave the territory of Abkhazia, and hopes that under present circumstances the Abkhaz side will show restraint and not allow there to be a dangerous turn of events.

Ten Rescue Workers Released in Georgia

LD0809174893 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 8 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The press service of the Russian State Committee for Emergencies [GKChS] reported today that 10 of the 15 Russian rescuers seized in the Georgian village of Azhara while bringing back the bodies of the crew of an aircraft that crashed while delivering humanitarian aid to Tkvarcheli, were released today. The GKChS continues to demand the release of the rescuers, who were carrying out their instructions.

Kuchma Holds Closed-Door Meeting With Chernomyrdin

LD0809155793 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1510 GMT 8 Sep 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep—Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, held talks this afternoon with Leonid Kuchma, prime minister of Ukraine. The meeting took place behind closed doors and no official report was made to journalists about the contents of the talks which took place. However, it has become known from Ukrainian sources that the main aim of Leonid Kuchma's working visit is to seek to resolve problems connected with supplies of Russian fuels to Ukraine.

Claims Oil Deal Reached

LD0909073993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0700 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Ukraine has concluded an agreement with Russia on fuel supplies. This was said by Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma [break in reception] Wednesday had talks with Russian colleague Viktor Chernomyrdin.

According to Kuchma, the agreement provides for more oil shipments, in addition to those promised by Russia this year. This should help Ukraine in the harvesting campaign. Kuchma said that the agreement also provides for the participation of a dealer, a Swiss company, that would buy Russian oil and sell Ukrainian farm produce to former Soviet republics.

Grachev on Yeltsin-Kravchuk Accord, Tajik Border Situation

PM0709115793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Sep 93 pp 1,3

[Oleg Odnokolenko report: Will the Black Sea Fleet Hoist the St. Andrew's Flag? With the Agreement of Both Russia and Ukraine: Russian Defense Ministry Leadership Answers Journalists' Questions"]

[Text] Last Saturday [4 September] there was a press conference with Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister; Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff; Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy; and Colonel General Yevgeniy Maslin, chief of the 12th Main Directorate of the Russian Federation Defense Ministry.

The press conference was opened by Army Gen. Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, who gave a report on the results of the talks in Crimea on the problem of the Black Sea Fleet between the presidents of the Russian Federation and Ukraine. Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kravchuk signed a protocol which resolves in principle that the Black Sea Fleet and its entire infrastructure in Crimea will be used by Russia and that the ships will fly Russian flags. Of course, Pavel Grachev stressed, the Black Sea Fleet will be fully supplied by the Russian side. The Russian side will compensate Ukraine for that half of the Black Sea Fleet, including the infrastructure, which would have been assigned to Ukraine by virtue of previous accords.

The state delegations of the Russian Federation and Ukraine have been given a month to study all the questions connected with the elaboration of an agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on the terms for basing the Russian Black Sea Fleet on Crimean territory. The Russian Federation Defense Ministry leadership believes that, in addition to a mechanism for effecting payments for Russia's use of the Black Sea Fleet, the paramount questions forming the basis of this agreement should be the protection of the political, social, and economic rights of Black Sea Fleet personnel and members of their families and people discharged into the reserve from the Russian Federation Armed Forces stationed on Ukrainian territory.

There is much work ahead, Pavel Grachev said, but the main work has been done—the fundamental decision on the Black Sea Fleet has been adopted. This paves the way to a civilized solution of all the problems between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. And, most importantly, it corresponds to the interests of Black Sea Fleet personnel, the residents of Sevastopol, and the population of Crimea and the Russian Federation.

During the press conference the following question was asked: Will those officers who have previously taken the oath to Ukraine be able to continue serving in the Black Sea Fleet? The question received a comprehensive answer: According to the Russian defense minister's order not one officer who has taken the oath to a different state—and this applies not just to sailors—will return to the Russian Armed Forces. As for questions of recruitment, it was noted that Ukrainian citizens will probably be able to serve in the Black Sea Fleet under contract if they so wish.

The press conference also discussed the problems of nuclear weapons stationed on Ukrainian territory. It was noted that recently there have been positive shifts in the solution of a whole range of problems which have developed between Russia and Ukraine in the nuclear weapons sphere. The many meetings between representatives of the Russian and Ukrainian Defense Ministries have made it possible to elaborate a whole package of priority documents essential to ensuring nuclear and ecological safety in the operation of the nuclear weapons stationed on Ukrainian territory. Even during the meeting between the two presidents in Crimea the two sides signed documents, which they had prepared and initialled in advance, defining the main principles governing the recycling of the nuclear charges of the strategic nuclear forces stationed in Ukraine and the procedure for their reduction and for the guarantee and manufacturer's warranty [garantiyniy i avtorskiy nadzor] covering the use of the strategic missile complexes belonging to the strategic forces deployed on the two states' territories.

The discussion at the press conference subsequently turned to the well-known letter from former Russian Security Minister Viktor Barannikov to the Russian Federation president published last week in NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA. As Pavel Grachev noted, he considers it necessary to respond to this letter since it impugns not just his honor but also the honor of the Russian Armed Forces.

First I would like to stress, the defense minister said, that in accordance with the Russian Federation Law "On Defense" Russia's Armed Forces are intended to repel aggression and inflict defeat on the aggressor as well as to perform tasks in accordance with the Russian Federation's international obligations. Under this law the decision on the use of the Armed Forces outside the Russian Federation is adopted by the Supreme Soviet.

At the same time Pavel Grachev noted that there has been no invasion of Tajikistan's territory by troop groupings of the Republic of Afghanistan as such. In this conflict, he said, one can speak only about solving Tajikistan's internal problem connected with the struggle between conflicting political groupings. He also stressed that he personally has repeatedly suggested at the Security Council that the question of the Tajik-Afghan border be resolved by reinforcing the border troops using the forces of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division involving the transfer of the division to the border troops. However, [former] Security Minister Viktor Pavlovich Barannikov claimed that the border troop reserve already in Tajikistan is capable of resolving the tasks of protecting and defending the border by itself, and the corresponding decisions of the Security Council were made on the basis of the security minister's assurances.

In the period to 12 July and in accordance with decisions made previously the Defense Ministry's main efforts were aimed at helping Tajikistan to form its own national Armed Forces. Arms and equipment were supplied and the necessary help was given in creating the Tajikistan Defense Ministry, training military specialists, and organizing subunits. In addition, at the Tajik Government's request units and subunits of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division have carried out tasks in protecting important national economic and military facilities. The necessary manpower has also been allocated to reinforce the Russian Federation's border troops, including the 117th Border Detachment. Troops have also been used to ensure deliveries of humanitarian freight, to help the Russian-speaking population, and to perform other tasks. In units belonging to the division a number of subunits intended for operations within armored groups under plans for collaboration with the border troops were placed on alert duty. And all this has happened despite the division's low level of staffing.

The fact is that the law (in particular the seventh congress decree on the military question) allows troops outside Russian territory to be staffed by volunteers alone. Draftees may not be sent there. And at the moment contract personnel do not want to go there.

Under the laws of military science collaboration in such instances is organized by the military chief responsible for carrying out the task in question. In this instance it should have been done by the chief of the border detachment. However, such collaboration was not organized properly, Army Gen. Grachev stated.

Now for the events on the border during the night of 12-13 July. According to available strategic intelligence, the border troops possessed information on a concentration of various armed formations. In the first place, Army Gen. Grachev noted, as an investigation after the attack on the border post showed, it was doomed to fail from the outset. Furthermore, this could have happened at any other border post in Tajikistan. The following factors contributed here. Not all the border posts were properly equipped with engineering fortifications. Even simple, basic trenches had not been dug for all the soldiers. That provision should have been made. In advance, of course. In view of the fact that the armed opposition possesses heavy weapons, including tanks and rocket artillery, the border posts should have been equipped long ago with company support bases, protective slit trenches, shelters, equipped and protected machine-gun nests, and so forth. None of that had been done. The bandit groups' most likely areas of advance had not been mined.

In addition—and this is the most shocking thing!—not all the border posts had reliable communications, and not only between themselves and the border detachment but also with the 201st Motorized Rifle Division, which they had forgotten about. In this connection the border troops command in Tajikistan did not know the true situation in the first few hours of fighting and consequently could not take the urgent measures that were needed. The border post could not be given prompt assistance by the border detachments' mobile groups, which were a considerable distance away and were not brought up to the border in time, which in turn raises doubts about the proper organization of intelligence.

The fact that the border posts were equipped only with light firearms is a highly telling one, Pavel Grachev said. At this time there were around 150 mortars stored at border troop dumps in Tajikistan. Furthermore, even the ammunition at the border post was still in its packing cases and for some incomprehensible reason was all kept at one dump, which was put out of action by the very first mortar shell. People were left without ammunition. Observation of the enemy from the commanding heights was not organized, and all the remote stations and listening posts were for some reason removed three days before the attack and concentrated at the border post.

Worse still, according to a report from one border guard, they were told the night before the attack: "Hands off the dushmans." Thus the border post was left "deaf" and "blind."

The border post could have been given fire support by the helicopters with which the border troops in Tajikistan are equipped. That did not happen either. There were airborne assault helicopters there, but they were not used either. All these factors were the main cause of the tragedy that occurred.

Could the 201st Motorized Rifle Division have given extra help to the border post? Yes it could, Pavel Grachev noted, but on condition that intelligence and communications had been organized and the command of the 201st Motorized Rifle Division had been been given advance warning, as has already been mentioned.

At present the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense virtually on its own initiative and with the permission of the president and the prime minister has done considerable work aimed at reinforcing the border troops in Tajikistan which do not belong to the Russian Armed Forces. Fortification work has been carried out, the majority of border posts have been mined, a considerable amount of artillery has been allocated, including rocket artillery, mortars, flame-throwers, firearms, communications equipment, and so forth.

We pay tribute to the courage and heroism of the border troops, Pavel Grachev said. And as for Army General Barannikov's accusations against the Defense Ministry, that is a case of the pot calling the kettle black, as the old saying has it.

Army Gen. Grachev was asked a question about Deputy Vitaliy Urazhtsev's recent comment in the TV program "Parliamentary Hour," in which he also leveled criticisms at the Russian Federation Defense Ministry leadership and the minister himself. To this accusation, Pavel Grachev replied that such speeches merely discredit the program in question. The deputies' corps itself is also discredited by the "efforts" of such deputies. The Russian defense minister stressed that he considers it beneath his dignity to enter into a polemic "with a political speculator with a chronic ignorance of the Army and its leadership."

During the press conference answers were given to other questions from representatives of the mass media and news agencies.

Details of Black Sea Fleet Protocol Cited

MK0909080693 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 93 p 1

[Vera Kuznetsova report under the "In Brief" column: "What Was Signed In Massandra and By Whom"]

[Text] Apart from vague statements by Ukrainian officials about what Ukraine did and did not sign in Massandra, there are documents with facsimile signatures by presidents Yeltsin and Kravchuk. As for the settlement of the Black Sea Fleet problem, they signed a protocol that is only proposing to draw up an agreement on the Black Sea Fleet, just as Kravchuk is claiming. However, the protocol they signed spells out all the basic characteristics of the would-be agreement. It was decided in the protocol to set forth that "the entire Black Sea Fleet with all its infrastructure in Crimea will be used by Russia and receive Russian state symbols." The protocol also includes a provision whereby Russia will make the requisite payments "for one-half of the Black Sea Fleet, including infrastructure." On 3 September in Massandra Leonid Kravchuk affixed his signature to the text quoted above.

Belarusian Prime Minister Visits, Signs Agreements

LD0809173293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov; all figures as received]

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—Belarusian Prime minister Vyachaslav Kebich, who arrived in Moscow on a brief visit, signed an agreement on Wednesday [8 September] on "practical measures for the creation of the rouble zone of a new type."

On Tuesday, the agreement was signed by heads of government and national banks of Russia, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Kebich and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin signed an agreement on uniting the Belarusian and Russian monetary systems, intergovernment agreements on prices for natural gas and tariffs for its transportation and on the "Beltransgas" transportation and gas supplying enterprise joining the Russian "Gazprom" joint stock society.

After the signing ceremony Chernomyrdin, in reply to a correspondent from ITAR-TASS, emphasised the importance of the agreement on uniting monetary systems of the two countries which is a logical continuation of the document "on practical measures for the creation of the rouble zone of a new type," signed between the countries of the CIS on Tuesday.

Chernomyrdin said that in order to normalise monetary relations with Russia Belarus would have to take measures to bring its economic legislation in line with the Russian legislation to enable the two countries to coordinate the work of their banking, credit and customs systems.

Chernomyrdin pointed out that by signing this agreement "Russia was not encroaching on anyone's sovereignty." "On the contrary, we are pooling our efforts for the stabilisation of the economic situation in the two countries," Chernomyrdin noted.

In accordance with an agreement on gas prices the sides agreed that in the second half of 1993 natural gas supplied from Russia to Belarus will cost 15,600 roubles per 1,000 cubic meters in July and 42,000 roubles in August.

As of September 1, 1992, gas prices will be monthly increased by 1,152 times bringing them to 80 U.S. dollars by January 1, 1994. By this time the tariff for the transit of Russian gas through the territory of Belarus will be gradually raised to 1.5 U.S. dollars for the transit of 1,000 cubic meters of gas at a distance of 100 kilometers.

Seeks Closer Relations

LD0809200493 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By Mikhail Aleksandridi; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] The agreement between six states to set up a unified ruble zone took on full weight today after the appearance at the bottom of the document of the signature of Vyacheslav Kebich for Belarus. [passage omitted]

[Begin recording] [Aleksandridi] The signature of Belarusian Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich, who came to Moscow, today appeared beneath the text of the agreement on the creation of a new type of ruble zone. The legal basis of Russo-Belarusian relations has been supplemented by understandings on the unification of the two countries' monetary systems, natural gas prices, and the entry of the Belarusian enterprise Beltransgaz into the Russian joint-stock company Gazprom.

As journalists were told by Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vyacheslav Kebich, Moscow and Minsk intend to unify bank, credit, and customs systems and to bring the two countries' economic legislation closer together.

[Chernomyrdin] No one here is encroaching on sovereignty in any way. No one is losing anything in that respect here. But as far as the economy is concerned, we are combining our efforts here. This means being even closer than before, or, let's say, than the relations we have with other states.

[Kebich] What is meant is that trade relations and monetary circulation between the two states are not restricted. We shall confine ourselves to those third countries with which we shall have joint dealings, as it were, and even then we shall come to an agreement on our relations with third countries. A customs union and a whole customs border will now be on the external borders of Russia and Belarus. [end recording]

Impact of NATO Membership for Poland Viewed

PM0909093193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Sep 93 p 7

[Viktor Shutkevich article: "Neither Friend Nor Foe. What Then? President Yeltsin's 'Go-Ahead' to Poland's Joining NATO Tallies Ill With Statements About Russia's 'Historic Interests' in East Europe"]

[Text] **Role of Improvisation in Politics**

Euphoria prevails in the Polish capital. It seems that, having gotten rid of its old, tiresome husband—the Soviet Union—Poland is hurriedly preparing for another marriage—with the North Atlantic alliance. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin blessed this marriage during his visit last week, obviously playing the role of "big brother" for the last time. Warsaw is now trying on the starry blue outfit of the NATO "bride," keenly heeding the comments—Isn't it tight? Is it becoming? Does it fit?

But how can this be? After all, no one, you would have thought, predicted this turn of events? Literally the day before the visit, in an interview with the Polish news agency, Russian Foreign Ministry Andrey Kozyrev was extremely skeptical about the idea of Poland's joining NATO, saying that it "smelled musty like mothballs." But a couple of days later, when the two presidents met in the government's out-of-town residence Helenowo near Warsaw, this idea—in the absence of both countries' foreign ministers—unexpectedly met with understanding from Yeltsin. K. Skubiszewski, the head of the Polish Foreign Ministry, was immediately told about this on the telephone. Walesa's press secretary claimed in the newspaper SZTANDAR MLODYCH that Poland owes this "diplomatic success" exclusively to its president.

One can only guess at the intimate conversations between Walesa and Yeltsin that preceded it. However, something else is far more important: The highly important foreign policy decision was adopted by the Russian president contrary to the opinion of the head of Russia's foreign policy department, an opinion voiced unequivocally just the day before. Admittedly, the following day during morning plenary discussions with Defense Minister P. Grachev, Kozyrev tried to diminish the impact of this decision by striving to ensure that the text of the joint political declaration only included the idea of the "understanding" with which Yeltsin responded to Walesa's stance on the NATO issue. However, after the nighttime discussions, the Polish president was in a determined mood and moved on the offensive: "So is Poland a sovereign state or not?" "OK," Boris Nikolayevich ended the dispute with a single word. And a couple of hours later the world's major news agencies were already reporting the sensational news that Russia is lifting the barriers to Poland's joining NATO. And the world's leading politicians once again asked the futile question: Who decides Russia's foreign policy? The head of Russian diplomacy, who has for the umpteenth time found himself in a fairly risible position? Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, who unexpectedly got involved in the tricky dispute over the Kurils in the Far East? Or does everything indeed depend on Boris Nikolayevich's mood and state of health, a man who instantly resolves highly complex diplomatic riddles in a flash of inspiration? But if the country's foreign policy is so dependent on the president's impromptu decisions (albeit successful!), what guarantee is there of its being consistent and stable?

Can You Be "Slightly in NATO"?

Was this improvisation successful for Russia—that is another big question. On the one hand, Yeltsin's go-ahead to Poland's joining NATO (and in its wake the Czech Republic and Slovakia) is undoubtedly an acknowledgment of the realities that have emerged in postcommunist East Europe. Well, our former Warsaw Pact partners do not want to be allied to us—and nor should they be! Love cannot be compelled and the fact that Russia has renounced "shotgun weddings" with neighbors means that it is displaying political commonsense.

The question is just this: With whom will we be left after the separation? In the opinion of one high-ranking Russian diplomat, "East Europe's gravitation toward the West may end up isolating Russia." The threat is by no means an imaginary one and that is probably why Yeltsin's closest advisers rushed to explain things shortly after the joint Russian-Polish declaration was signed: It does in fact, they say, talk not about Poland's joining NATO, but some kind of new Europe-wide security structure, which is to be set up within the CSCE and is to comprise all 54 European states, including the former republics of the Soviet Union. All in all this is a thing of the dim distant future since such a step now would elicit a stormy reaction from the antipresidential opposition in Russia while Poland, which Boris Nikolayevich treated so kindly, would not of course want to put him in a spot...

We must not deceive ourselves and others, gentlemen. As for our former allies, the question is totally clear to them: It is a question of joining NATO and only NATO, and as soon as possible. Moreover the idea of total independence from Russia and alliance with the West is not that new here, it is like a wedding dress taken out of great-grandmother's trunk. But for Poles today it is just as wonderful. According to sociologists' latest figures, today it has the approval of 57 percent of respondents (a year ago the figure only stood at one in three). Relying on the support of public opinion, Polish diplomacy is now making vigorous efforts to speed up the longed-for alliance. Immediately after the summit meeting K. Skubiszewski urged the leaders of the North Atlantic alliance countries to give Poland a clear "affirmative" since the main obstacle that they cited previously—Russia's disagreement—has now been removed.

From the viewpoint of their own interests the Poles (like the Czechs and the Slovaks, or the Hungarians) are in my view acting in an utterly logical and correct manner. Military alliance with an unstable Russia plunged deep in strife would hardly bring them tangible benefits. On the contrary, it would most likely cause irritation and suspicion among the former Soviet republics, now independent states. Membership of NATO would, first, give the Poles definite guarantees of their security in the event of the crisis in Russia worsening and, second, would to some extent set their minds at rest regarding the behavior of their other powerful neighbor—Germany, with whom Poland would now be linked by ties of North Atlantic solidarity.

The West Will Be Closer to Us

What about the new Europe-wide security structure within the CSCE framework, on whose creation the presidential team are pinning their hopes? One should not harbor any illusions—no one will create it for us in the near future. The states in Europe today have neither the desire, nor the means, nor the opportunity to do this.

At the same time Poland's admission (along with the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary) to the North Atlantic alliance is indeed by no means a thing of the immediate future. Although there are no longer any formal obstacles. The West will delay its decision as long as it can. First, because admitting new members would considerably weaken the unanimity in the adoption of political decisions by all NATO members, a unanimity which is already very hard to secure, as evidence yet again by Yugoslavia. Second, because the armed forces in Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, modeled on Soviet lines and equipped with Soviet weapons, do not fit in with the current NATO military structure at all and will take plenty of time and vast amounts of money to reorganize. Third, because sensible Western politicians are also afraid of NATO's borders being moved up to present-day Russia—in effect, toward a country which is already experiencing civil war. It would be in the West's interests to keep a neutral, buffer zone for as long as possible, a band of states that wholeheartedly sympathize with it, but with whom the West is not associated by any formal commitments. And the West is not frightened by the East Europeans' significant hints that, if there are further delays, they will have to think about creating an "alternative system of collective security." The West is perfectly well aware that East Europe has no other option. It does not have the manpower resources, the money, or the modern technologies to create a truly effective system of collective defense. Nevertheless the West can only keep its potential allies in a state of limbo up to a certain point—like nature, politics does not tolerate a vacuum. And one should not rule out the idea that, faced with a reemergent, new Russia, striving to restore its lost positions, the West will decide to move the borders of the North Atlantic alliance, crudely speaking, from the Elbe to the Bug.

In effect, there will be a repetition of the military-political alignment that existed after World War II, the sole exception being that Russia will play the part of the Soviet Union and the "buffer zone" will now be provided by Belarus and Ukraine instead of the states of Central and East Europe.

Some people may think again that these hypotheses smell musty like mothballs. People say that the world has changed and NATO has ceased to be the bogey to most

Russians with which we were frightened for decades. However, present-day reality is such that Russia, which 18 months ago declared East Europe to be a sphere of its historic interests, is today ceding this zone to others. For God's sake, may there only be a smell of mothballs near its borders and not gunpowder...

EC Develops Project for Delivery of Perishables

LD0809203093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2019 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Gordeyev]

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—EC experts jointly with the Russian Railways Ministry have developed a project for delivering perishables by railway to Russia's remote regions.

The new project was discussed at a news conference held in Moscow on Wednesday [8 September]. Deputy Russian Railways Minister Oleg Moshenko said that a freight train carrying 663 tonnes of perishable goods kept in refrigerator containers provided by the European Community is arriving in Moscow on Wednesday and from Moscow will run to Krasnodar where it will be loaded with fresh tomatoes, raisins, pears and apples.

In a week's time the train with vegetables and fruit for Jakutiya is expected to cover a distance of 8.300 kilometers and reach the town of Berkakita in Eastern Siberia.

Such "door-to door" transportation of perishables in containers is being carried out in Russia for the first time. The aim of the experiment is to show that problems of long-distance cargo transportation can be successfully resolved.

At present, 48 per cent of food cargoes in Russia is transported by railway. However, long delays at customs check points, technical problems, interrupted energy supply to refrigerators containing perishables, low hygiene standards and thefts at stations lead to considerable losses of products.

Moshenko said that in 1991, 20 million tonnes out of 33 million tonnes of cargoes were delivered by railway and only an inconsiderable part of products reached the destination fit for use.

Catherine Manyan, a representative of the EC Commission, told ITAR-TASS that this undertaking was a continuation of research into a possibility of improving the critical situation in Russia with long distance railway transportation, carried out in accordance with the programme of the EC technical assistance. She said that 1,900,000 ECUs had been allocated for this purpose.

Burbulis Says Kurils Will Eventually Return to Japan

LD0909085793 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Gennadiy Burbulis, president of the International Humanitarian and Politological Strategy Center, has expressed the view that sooner or later, the four southern Kuril islands will be returned to Japan by Russia, but that it is still hard to say when. In an interview for ITAR-TASS, he noted that the territorial problem arose as a result of an act of aggression by Stalin's totalitarian regime, which took the form of exiling civilians from their lands, and that this has to be put right. This issue must be resolved as honestly and fairly as possible, also with regard to the present Russian inhabitants of the islands, said Burbulis.

Importance of Yeltsin's Japan Trip Evaluated

MK0809090893 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 37, 12 Sep 93 (Signed to Press 7 Sep) p A7

[Article by Konstantin Sarkisov, deputy director of the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of the Far East: "When Will the Visit to Japan Take Place After All?"]

[Text] Our presidents—the former Soviet one and the current Russian one—have not only amazingly different political views but also tastes. Mikhail Gorbachev planned his visits to Japan in the spring. Boris Yeltsin seeks to get there in the fall, first last September and now this October.

President Gorbachev chose spring when the sakura is in blossom. Though he did not quite accurately pronounce this word, he knew that it is beautiful and went off in a spring mood. The Russian president's choice of fall is obviously not linked to the beauty of the Japanese scenery but to the mood. He himself spoke about the discomfort of the thought about a trip to Japan.

The president's autumnal mood is quite understandable. Relations with Japan are the heaviest burden of the past that he has inherited. He is not to blame for it himself, and he would honestly like to see good relations with the Far Eastern neighbor.

In January 1990, when he was still in opposition to the CPSU, Yeltsin came out with the concept of a "phased" solution to the territorial question, which envisioned recognizing the question as such and signing a peace treaty but without any actual territorial concessions. In my opinion, this position was unrealistic but quite civilized.

When he came to power, the president was still full of optimism. The idea of "accelerating" the five-stage plan appeared. Then came the formula about "legitimacy and justice"—vague but attractive. In February 1992 in a friendly message to the Japanese premier, Yeltsin maintained that we are "potential allies" with the Japanese. It seems that relations have not risen above this level.

Yet a purely mundane law took effect: the more unsubstantiated the hopes and euphoria, the longer and more painful the fall. Crude reality upset all aspirations of democratic idealism. September 1992 became a cold and sobering shower. All illusions about the president's new position with respect to Japan, a readiness to seriously and deeply attend to relations with that country vanished. Moreover, it became obvious that with the current condition of the state and public opinion, such complicated problems as Russian-Japanese relations defy any quick solution.

The Russian president, however, is known for his strong character. He is known for his persistence. He does not like to be pressured. Therefore he did not go to Japan in September. Apparently, however, he does not like not having any pressure on him, either. Suddenly, during a complete lull in bilateral relations, last April the president stated that he would like to go to Japan in May.

The Japanese, who had not yet recovered from the September shock, naively discussed this question in the government and gave a positive answer. The president, however, took the unexpectedly announced May visit just as unexpectedly off the agenda. Significantly, both in September and May the form in which all this was presented is reminiscent of prehistoric times when diplomacy was nonexistent.

Now the visit is scheduled for October. The president is again saying that he will go to Japan, and this time there will be no delays or shifts. But is this realistic? Of course, much has changed during this year, but not for the better. It would seem that there are even fewer domestic reasons for the visit than last September. Even people from the presidential entourage are now occupying a tough position on the territorial issue. Chernomyrdin's statements in the Kurils and in Khabarovsk are not just an emotional position. It is a serious demarche, a retreat 33 years back, to February 1960 when the Soviet Government for the first time tried to disavow the 1956 Joint Declaration.

Can it be supposed that the Russian premier simply did not understand this extremely complicated question and spoke on his own behalf? Hardly. In addition, his statements are well in tune with statements by representatives of the presidential press service, for instance, Kostikov, who up till now has repeatedly stressed that the 1956 Declaration is an obsolete model.

The essence of the situation is clear: A tough uncompromising struggle is taking place at the top and the president is seeking to keep a balance, trying not to allow his political rivals get additional trumps. This is why not only can he not make any headway in resolving the territorial dispute, but he also cannot even confirm the obligations made in 1956.

This complicates the task of the visit but does not make it quite hopeless. An attempt could be made in Tokyo to simply record the present level of relations, the status quo, and all the previous accords without any specification and sign a whole lot of new agreements. It could be assumed that the new Japanese Government, not bound by political traditions of the past regime, can accept this option and will in turn also display flexibility. To do this, however, it is necessary to achieve at least minimal success and to make serious preparations. Otherwise the visit will have to be canceled several days in advance.

Furthermore, there are serious fears that the president has completely taken into account the possible reaction of the opposition, which in fact could not care less about the fate of the islands but will certainly raise an uproar in the run-up to the visit. It is not clear why the president did not dissuade his former associate Gennadiy Burbulis from making a trip to Japan even as a private person—after all, the opposition, both moderate and intransigent, is using this, among other things, to cast a shadow on the visit. What if parliament trips up the president by stating prior to his trip to Tokyo that the territorial problem does not exist whatsoever?

Intuition and improvisation are said to be strong features of the president's character. Both these qualities are good in their own way, but they cannot be applied to relations with Japan. These relations are far too complicated, complex, and emotionally sharpened for both peoples. A calm and balanced approach is needed here.

Otherwise another delay is possible, a shift or cancellation—in a word, an unprovoked and impermissible spit on a neighbor.

Detained Japanese Trawler Captain 'Committed Suicide'

OW0809144793 Tokyo KYODO in English 1436 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 8 KYODO—Russia told the Japanese embassy on Wednesday [8 September] a Japanese trawler captain committed suicide while detained in Sakhalin after his boat was seized in July near disputed islands off Hokkaido, embassy officials said.

The notification by the Russian Foreign Ministry came as the Japanese Consulate General in Nakhodka, Russia, was preparing to send officials to Sakhalin to investigate the death of Minoru End, 40, captain of the No. 23 Hisae Maru.

The mission will arrive in Sakhalin on Thursday, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials in Tokyo said.

The Russian Ministry told the embassy Monday that Endo died August 28 but gave no further details.

On Wednesday, it said Endo was found dead after hanging himself in his cell in a detention center in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk.

The fishing boat with a crew of three was seized July 10 in waters off Kunashiri, one of Russian-held islands seized at the end of World War II and claimed by Japan.

ROK General Comments on Military Exchanges, Arms Sales

SK0909015593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0102 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, Sept. 9 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Russia have agreed to expand military exchanges and continue to promote them from next year, according to Gen. Yi Yang-ho, chairman of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Yi disclosed the plan during a talk with Korean correspondents stationed in Moscow on Wednesday [8 September], while explaining details of his talks with Russian military leaders.

The size of the military exchanges between the two countries next year will be decided at a working-level conference later and agreements on them will be formally signed at the end of this year in the form of a protocol, he said.

The bilateral military exchanges, which started from this year, are expected to be expanded next year with exchanges of students, an invitation of the Russian chiefs of staff to visit South Korea and observation of each other's military exercises, he said.

With regard to possible imports of Russian weapons, Yi said there had not been any offer of sales from the Russian side and the Seoul government had not studied any Russian military hardware with purchase in mind.

But Yi said Russian officials told him that a vice minister was prepared to explain the capacity of Russian weapons to Seoul if asked.

Yi, who is an Air Force General, said Russia's MIG-29 fighter accelerates much faster from low speed than the mainstay U.S. F-16 fighter, and has excellent maneuverability at low speeds.

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev stated that Russia fully supports South Korean efforts to stop North Korea from developing nuclear weapons and stressed the need for military cooperation between South Korea and Russia for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and in the Northeast Asian region, Yi said.

Yi said he had the impression that Russian military leaders place much more significance on military cooperation with South Korea than North Korea, with which Russia still maintains a mutual defense treaty.

Cultural Cooperation Protocol Signed With China

LD0309173393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1610 GMT 3 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Zlodarev]

[Text] Moscow September 3 TASS—Russia and China have signed a protocol on cooperation in culture for 1994-1995 to contribute to strengthening mutual understanding between the peoples of Russia and China. The protocol was signed by First Deputy Chinese Minister for Culture Xu Wenbo and Russian Deputy Minister for Culture, Mikhail Shvydka.

In accordance with the protocol, the sides will exchange official delegations. The Russian Sveshnikov Choir and the Oleg Lundstroem Jazz Orchestra are due to perform in China, while the Chinese folk ensembles "Meilin" and "Orient" will visit Russia in return. Numerous exhibitions will open in Russia and China.

Welcoming the agreement, Russian Minister for Culture Yevgeniy Sidorov expressed confidence that it would promote further contacts between the two countries. "A distinguishing feature of our cooperation is that it helps expand non-governmental contacts through visits of leading masters of art," Sidorov said. He especially praised the development of contacts between Russian and Chinese border regions.

Chinese Corporation Develops Ties in Aerospace Industry

LD0409191593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1900 GMT 4 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Yevgeniy Nikitin and Nikolay Novichkov]

[Text] Zhukovskiy, the Moscow region, September 4 TASS—The major China national aero-space products import and export corporation expands business relations with Russian partners.

The corporation has established business relations and develops scientific-technical cooperation with aerospace companies from 50 states. Special attention is paid to cooperation with Russia, head of a Chinese delegation Fu Shul told ITAR-TASS.

During the Moscow International Aero-space Show in 1993, corporation specialists had business meetings with many Russian plane-building firms and trade organizations of the aero-space complex.

For instance, they coordinated a program to modernize MiG-23 fighters which have been adopted by the Chinese Army. It is the matter of equipping the planes with new armament systems and electronics. A show flight of TU-204-220 medium-range aircraft of the Russian-English Bravia firm will be done in October.

Estimating the aero-space show, the Chinese representative expressed the assurance the show has good prospects. The fact the show is held on three grounds: in Zhukovskiy, the Krasnaya Presnya Exhibition Center and the Khodynskoye field, creates certain difficulties for its participants, said Fu Shul.

In his opinion, it is better to hold the show on one grounds to house an exhibition of equipment, on-board appliances, engines, construction materials and technologies and offer show flights of various aircraft.

Commentary Assesses U.S.-Chinese Relations

LD0809095993 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0810 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Announcer-read Leonid Krichevskiy commentary]

[Text] A careful check up of the 782 containers on board the Chinese merchant vessel Yinhe showed that they contained no dangerous chemicals, the export of which is banned. And here's what Radio Moscow news analyst Leonid Krichevskiy writes:

If everything that happened to the Chinese merchant ship Yinhe wasn't a reality, one would think a new sea adventure film was being made. A merchant vessel sailed from China in the middle of July. It was a usual voyage with planned calls at certain ports. However, it at once drew the keenest attention of United States special services. They suspected that the ship carried raw material which China allegedly sold to Iran and which could be used as a component to make chemical weapons.

Of course there is nothing wrong about the intention of the United States to see to it that no attempt is made to spread banned chemical weapons. On the contrary, this deserves only praise. But of course there first has to be weighty proof that the ban is being violated, and the Americans acted in this particular case a bit too rashly.

U.S. warships were constantly in the wake of the Chinese boat. American planes kept an eye on it, filming and photographing everything going on it [as heard]. Pressure was put on some of the countries. As a result, Dubai, for instance, prohibited the merchant ship from entering its ports. And so the Yinhe had to spend almost a month in open sea, as if the plague or something like that was discovered on board, just like in the Middle Ages.

The end of the story was, however, very unlike what is shown in an adventure film. In the Saudi port of Dammam, the containers were checked by international experts. Among them, incidentally, was one from the United States. And all suspicions were at once dispelled.

It appeared to be nothing more than the usual bluff of an intelligence service. But why did it want to mislead the whole world, including its own administration?

Of course the blame could be put on the new generation of American secret agents, the James Bonds of today. But what makes one cautious is that anti-Chinese feelings are lately becoming more and more apparent in Washington. It is probably to the advantage of certain circles to add fuel to the fire and aggravate American-Chinese relations on the whole.

Incidentally, the reasons for imposing American sanctions on China, in retaliation to its supposed sale to Pakistan of technology for the production of a certain type of rockets, are rather doubtful. Even the American mass media admits that. In the first place, China denies handing over the technology, and secondly it didn't sign the agreement on control of the rockets, to which the United States refers.

Besides military problems, purely economic complications have quite accidentally came out in the open recently. [sentence as heard] For instance, the American side has refused to extend the agreement on Chinese textiles being sold in America. What is more there are growing calls in the American capital to strip China of its most favored nation status in trade.

So clearly not everything is going on smoothly in American-Chinese relations. And one of course can only regret the fact that the Clinton administration is allowing itself to be drawn into taking a negative course as regards China.

True, all these developments took place when the U.S. president was vacationing and in that connection, many American observers voice the hope that he will be able to gear relations with China back into the normal channel.

Well, all we can do is wait and see. As for the errors of the special services, the president should probably take care of that, first of all so that nothing of the kind is repeated.

Cambodia Seeks Military Cooperation

LD0809094293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0830 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Blagov]

[Text] Hanoi September 8 TASS—The Government of Cambodia comes out for the promotion of military-technological cooperation with Russia. A representative of the Cambodian Government said in Phnom Penh on Tuesday [7 September], after a meeting of co-chairmen of the coalition cabinet Norodom Raniriddh and Hun Sen with a delegation of Russian military experts, which took place on the same day. The experts came to Cambodia to explore the requirements of the national army with a view to keeping the military hardware, previously supplied to Cambodia by the USSR, in proper order. According to the representative, Cambodia needs Russian military-technological assistance to strengthen its national army, because it lacks funds to purchase new weapons.

The Cambodian Army is mainly equipped with Russian-made weaponry. For instance, the core of the Cambodian Air Force is made up of MiG- 21 aircraft, which were delivered to Phnum Penh by the former Soviet Union. However, most of them cannot be used at present due to lacking spare parts.

Mideast Peace Process Developments Viewed

PM0309122993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1,3

[Konstantin Eggert report: "Palestinian Leadership Ready To Recognize Israel"]

[Text] "The PLO recognizes the State of Israel and renounces terrorism," says a statement issued by Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, transmitted by the French radio station France Inter and immediately taken up by the news agencies.

It was made the day after the Israeli cabinet officially approved the plan for the creation of a Palestinian autonomous formation in the Gaza strip and the city of Jericho on the West Bank of the Jordan. The plan was agreed between the Israelis and PLO representatives at secret talks in Oslo. It is expected that during the 11th round of bilateral talks on the Near East settlement, which is taking place in Washington, the Israeli and Palestinian delegations will officially confirm the basic principles of this document.

The statement by Bassam Abu-Sharif, the man many call " 'Arafat's shadow," is further evidence that the mutual recognition of the PLO and Israel is inevitable. In the opinion of Nabil Sha'th, adviser to the Palestinian delegation, it will take place in the weeks ahead.

"The face-to-face talks between us and the Israelis in themselves already effectively signify mutual recognition," Dawud Barakat, Palestinian ambassador to Moscow, stated to IZVESTIYA. "As for the legal enshrinement of it, this will find its final expression in a future peace agreement."

It is well known that as a condition of the recognition of 'Arafat's organization, Tel-Aviv is insisting on a change to those points in the PLO Charter which contain directives on the armed struggle and the need to expel all Jews who have arrived in Palestine since 1948. In this connection Barakat noted: "The PLO is a national liberation movement waging the struggle against occupation by various means." In his words, however, changes to the Charter are possible depending on the actual situation. The ambassador expressed the conviction that the Israeli side will have to "renounce the concept of Palestine as the historical home of the Jews and recognize the right of the Palestinians to that land."

It is doubtful that Yitzhaq Rabin's government will agree to revise so drastically the fundamental principles which form the basis of the Jewish state. Most probably the main move will be made by Yasir 'Arafat, especially given that from the legal viewpoint he has every reason to do so. In 1988 the Palestinian National Council—the parliament in exile—adopted a declaration approving UN Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the two fundamental documents of the Near East settlement, thereby recognizing de facto Israel's right to exist.

The main danger to the peace process today lies among the Palestinians themselves. The Muslim radicals in the Hamas organization, like a number of secular organizations belonging to the PLO, have accused 'Arafat of capitulation. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is based in Damascus, has actually made a death threat against him. The Front has issued a special statement which says: " 'Arafat could suffer the same fate as Anwar al-Sadat." The PLO leader's actions have caused a contradictory reaction in the occupied territories, too, where many inhabitants are convinced that Israel will never agree to the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

The Palestinian leader's independent conduct has provoked marked irritation in Syria and Jordan. Damascus is especially unhappy that the implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian accord will mean the death of the so-called principle of an "all-embracing settlement" linking the solution of the Palestinian problem to the territorial questions, the main one of which is the return of the Golan Heights to Syria. King Husayn of Jordan paid an urgent visit to the Syrian capital for talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. The days ahead will show whether the Arab world is capable of abandoning its egoism and recognizing the Palestinians' main role in the peace process.

Palestinian Envoy Discusses Agreement With Israel

PM0709154593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Aleksey Portanskiy and Konstantin Eggert report: "Israel and PLO Will Recognize One Another 13 September, Palestinian Ambassador to Moscow Dawud Barakat Says"]

[Text] "I believe that the PLO leadership and the Israeli Government will make a simultaneous statement of mutual recognition 13 September in Tunis and Tel Aviv respectively." The announcement that many people had been expecting any day came from Dawud Barakat, Palestine's ambassador to Russia, during an embassy press conference.

According to the ambassador, the agreement on Palestinian autonomy, which has been called "Gaza-Jericho First," is quite ready and will be signed shortly. It comprises 17 points. It is envisaged that three or four weeks after the Palestinian and Israeli representatives have signed this accord Israeli Army units will be withdrawn from the Gaza Sector and Jericho, never to return. All control over internal security, the ambassador stated, will be concentrated in the hands of Palestinian self-government organs.

Nine months after the agreement is signed elections to self-government organs are to be held in the occupied territories and in East Jerusalem. Then the intention is to complete the Israeli troop withdrawal, Dawud Barakat said. During the second year of autonomy talks will begin with a view to resolving the Palestinian problem once and for all. "We still want full sovereignty, while at the same time attaching great importance to relations with our neighbors, in particular with Jordan, since we expect to form a confederation with that country," Palestine's ambassador said.

Speaking about East Jerusalem, D Barakat pointed out that its future will be decided during the second phase of the peace process. "Palestinians still believe that Jerusalem will be their state's capital," he said.

According to the ambassador, 74 percent of the inhabitants of the occupied territories approve of the plan for autonomy. The main Palestinian organizations such as Fatah, the People's Party, and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine have also supported it. Barakat confirmed that there are disagreements between the PLO and the Hamas fundamentalist organization, which, as we know, is promising to continue the fight against the Israeli-Palestinian agreements. "They are entitled to their own position," the diplomat said. "However, we hope that Hamas will keep its promise not to resort to violence. Its official representatives have made a public promise to that effect."

Government Approves Defense Deal With Kuwait

PM0809081593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Sep 93 p 2

[Untitled, unattributed report under the "From the Government's Work Desk" rubric]

[Text] A draft agreement between the Russian Federation Government and the government of the State of Kuwait in the sphere of defense cooperation—a draft submitted by the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense and agreed with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs—was approved at a routine session of the government. The Russian Federation Ministry of Defense has been entrusted with signing this agreement on behalf of the Russian Government at a time to be agreed with the Kuwaiti side and, at the same time, is permitted to make changes and additions to the text of the draft provided they are not of a fundamental nature.

Political Issues

Moscow Prosecutor Discusses Corruption Inquiry

PM0909092793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report of interview with Moscow City Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev by Igor Andreyev; place and date not given: "Materials of the Commission for Combating Corruption: First Conclusions of Moscow Prosecutor's Office"]

[Text] As already reported, the capital's Prosecutor's Office has completed a preliminary check on the materials passed to it by the Russian Federation Security Council Interdepartmental Commission for Combating Crime and Corruption. Moscow City Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev tells IZVESTIYA's correspondent of the first conclusions.

In the assessment of Gennadiy Semenovich and his colleagues, the sheaf of 600-700 sheets which came from the Interdepartmental Commission represents a poorly systematized collection of materials not accompanied by any comments by the commission. That is, apart from the public statements by members of the Interdepartmental Commission explaining just what criminal matter is contained in the documents, there are no other recommendations to the prosecutor's office. In addition, the Interdepartmental Commission has not yet fulfilled its voluntary promise to submit competent translations of materials from English and German, certified by specialists, within one week. So it is premature at present to speak of the authenticity of many documents.

And yet the first conclusions already exist. They are connected chiefly with the activity of the "Agrokhim" concern and with the memorable telephone conversation between General Prosecutor V. Stepankov and D. Yakubovskiy.

As for "Agrokhim," in the opinion of the prosecutor's office, there are signs of indictable abuses in the actions of its officials. In particular, unsubstantiated transfers of state currency funds abroad to accounts of enterprises created by the not unknown Seabeco Group company. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against these as yet unidentified officials.

On the other hand, criminal proceedings have not been instituted in respect of the participants in the telephone conversation, in which, so Andrey Makarov claims, Stepankov and Yakubovskiy discussed a plan to murder a member of the Interdepartmental Commission.

First, G. Ponomarev commented, the conversation was conducted in such terms, almost in code, that it is impossible to interpret them unequivocally as an intention to physically remove Makarov. Second, even if the interlocutors had resorted to more definite wording, in legal language this would be called nothing more than a disclosure of intent. But "disclosure" without subsequent actions to carry out the intent does not make the interlocutors liable before the law. Moral liability is another matter, the Moscow prosecutor remarked. As a jurist and a citizen, I am indignant at the very fact of such a conversation, one of whose participants was the general prosecutor.

There has been telephone contact with Yakubovskiy, Ponomarev said. We asked him to come to Moscow, because precisely he, as the Interdepartmental Commission acknowledges, is the main supplier of the materials handed over by the commission. Yakubovskiy refused to fly to Russia, so Ponomarev believes, because of fears for his own safety. But he agreed to a meeting outside the Russian Federation. He also agreed to answer by fax approximately 15 questions connected with the conversation with Stepankov. The answers fitted into a few lines, the Moscow prosecutor remarked. From them it follows that he agrees with A. Makarov's version that there was talk of the physical annihilation of a member of the Interdepartmental Commission.

And yet the Moscow prosecutor believes that the chief thing completely ruling out the possibility of instituting criminal proceedings at Makarov's request is the strange fact that it was Yakubovskiy himself, the potential "murderer," who passed a tape recording of the conversation to Makarov, the "victim" of the plot. Maybe the television journalist Andrey Karaulov, a friend of Yakubovskiy, was the transmission link. We have questions to put to him, Ponomarev said, but Karaulov has so far avoided contact with the prosecutor's office, pleading illness.

A separate sheaf of materials from the Interdepartmental Commission is devoted, so the commission maintains, to A. Rutskoy's involvement with a Swiss bank account. We have met with the vice president, Ponomarev said, and remain in telephone contact with him. He answered questions of interest to us—which helped to decide further operational-investigative measures. There is also to be an interrogation of Rutskoy, at which, to all appearances, we will raise more purposeful questions which have been elaborated following a study of the case. The vice president categorically denies his signature on some agreement assigning power of attorney, but he does not rule out the possibility that, thanks to technical means, its facsimile was reproduced on that document. One way or another, Ponomarev emphasized, it is necessary to study and investigate the original agreement. The Moscow prosecutor hopes that the Canadian authorities will provide such an opportunity.

Let us assume, however, Ponomarev said, that the information made public by the Interdepartmental Commission about the vice president's Swiss account is the truth. That Rutskoy really did conclude an agreement assigning power of attorney to one B. Keret, now deceased, and entrusted him with disposing of his property abroad. This is not prohibited by law. The question for the prosecutor's office is which currency entered the account at the Banque Indosuez Bank and for which services. Is this money "clean"? If we assume, only assume, the Moscow prosecutor emphasized, that some firm is legally paying for Citizen Rutskoy's activities, then the law has no complaints against him. How such brokerage by Vice President Rutskoy looks from the viewpoint of a statesman's ethics is another matter.

Gennadiy Semenovich regarded IZVESTIYA's questions concerning the materials made public by the commission as fair and deserving of answers. Let us remind you: In issue No. 162 our newspaper drew attention to a discrepancy between Makarov's claim that a Canadian notary certified the authenticity of the agreement assigning power of attorney and the actual notarial certificate (published in No. 160). The latter states only that the notary has checked a copy of the document against the agreement proper and given an assurance that the copy corresponds to the original. Not a word about the genuineness of the agreement or the authenticity of the signatures on it.

The bank documents published by IZVESTIYA also gave rise to the newspaper's doubts. One of them reproduces the unintelligible name, in translation from English, of the Russian party to the deal under which money was transferred abroad. The second one, contrary to strict banking rules concerning the confidentiality of deposits and transfers, begins with these words: "To whom it may concern...."; plus some special features of the financial documents that do not quite correspond to the customary formatting rules for English-language documents.

The more we study the documents of the Interdepartmental Commission and the more we learn from the mass media about more exposes, Ponomarev said, the more we become convinced that all this is pure politics. At the same time criminality is increasingly frequently assuming the role of the arguments put forward by the sides in this....

Placing Rutskoy Office Under Guard Deemed 'Unlawful'

LD0809162793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—Moscow's Public Prosecutor Gennadiy Ponomarev has sent a letter to Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy saying that "the prosecutor's office has not submitted any requests either to the Russian president or the Kremlin commandant 'in the interests of the investigation'," the vice presidential press service said on Wednesday [8 September].

It said that the decision to take the office of the vice president and his staff under guard is "unlawful and entails responsibility envisaged by the law."

Deputy Defends Rutskoy; New Party Being Formed

LD0709220993

[Editorial report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1110 GMT on 7 September carries in its "Radio Parliament" program a 50-minute interview with Russian People's Deputy Vitaliy Urazhtsev, senior coordinator of the Army Reform parliamentary faction and chairman of the Russian Shchit [Shield] Union. The interview is conducted by Tatyana Ivanova.

The interview begins with a discussion on how and why Rutskoy's office was sealed off. Urazhtsev describes this move as "uncivilized" and says that it may have been done not by Yeltsin himself, but by his entourage. He adds that Rutskoy's career is not over yet, whatever some journalists may say. Urazhtsev says he is convinced that Rutskoy is being targeted, being the one who would replace Yeltsin if something happened to him. However, the whole row is being played up in order to divert public attention from Russia's real problems.

Rutskoy's credentials are high, Urazhtsev says, and he himself is looking forward to "the program for revitalizing the fatherland" which Rutskoy promises to deliver in the autumn. "I think Aleksandr Vladimirovich [Rutskoy] should be more specific when telling the electorate about his program, and expound on what will happen when Rutskoy is in power." He goes on to say that Yeltsin has failed to fulfill many of his promises.

Asked whether Rutskoy is indeed conducting his own presidential campaign at taxpayers' expense, Urazhtsev replies that Rutskoy is touring the country in order to get to know the situation on the ground—something he needs in working on his comprehensive revitalization program.

Urazhtsev then goes on to describe Rutskoy's career, focusing on his fight against corruption. Deputy Procurator General Nikolay Makarov has confirmed that 80 percent of Rutskoy's allegations are well-grounded.

Urazhtsev contends that Rutskoy's potential is much higher than the tasks assigned to him by the president, so it is no surprise that he could not take any more.

The discussion then deals with the question of why "decent people" are leaving Yeltsin's entourage one by one, and how Yeltsin will be seen 100 years from now.

The next topic for discussion is the plight of the passengers in Vnukovo airport, Moscow, whose flights were repeatedly delayed last week. This prompts Urazhtsev to say that the executive is doing nothing. He continues: "I believe the executive is living through its last months, or maybe even weeks—because what we have in the country now can only be described as an outrage. The fact is that this power is incompetent, unprofessional, and, saddest of all, irresponsible." He goes on to criticize various officials, including Moscow Mayor Luzhkov.

Urazhtsev continues: "Many people, however, are not prepared to accept this outrage. We are setting up a party called Vozrozhdeniye Otechestva [Revival of the Fatherland]. Primary party organizations have already been set up in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Magadan, Orenburg, Yekaterinburg, Izhevsk, Krasnodar, and Kostroma. The party will cooperate with the Civic Union and the centrist forces coalition, and will back progressive candidates for the post of Russian president. We are in favor of early presidential and parliamentary elections. This seems to be the only way out of the present impasse.

"The aims of the party are as follows: to revive Russian statehood, patriotism, humanism, and the unity and integrity of the fatherland; to restore a single economic space; and to prevent Russia from slipping into economic catastrophe, etc." Urazhtsev concludes by saying they are confident Russia will be revived.

Shumeyko Testifies in Corruption Investigation

PM0809164193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

["Own information" report: "Vladimir Shumeyko Gives Evidence to Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office"]

[Text] On 8 September Russian Federation Government Vice Premier V. Shumeyko who, as we know, has been temporarily removed by the president from the execution of his official duties, gave evidence at the Russian General Prosecutor's Office investigation administration.

He was summoned there by the prosecutor. Before the talk V. Shumeyko told an IZVESTIYA correspondent that he was in an absurd situation: If he is waiting for charges to be brought then that wait could go on for a year or two or no charges at all will be brought. I cannot remain for so long without work, V. Shumeyko said, so I must decide what to do.

According to one of his advisers V. Shumeyko is prepared immediately to supply the prosecutor's office with all the documents in his possession which might be of interest to the investigation into the case of corruption in the top echelons of power. At the same time he does not intend to testify against himself. It is the task of the investigation to collect such material—that is what the law states.

After approximately three hours of conversation between V. Shumeyko and the general prosecutor's assistant A. Yakovlev, lawyer B. Kuznetsov, who represents the first vice premier's interests, told journalists that the talk has no legal consequences. V. Shumeyko did not agree to sign an undertaking implying that he bears criminal responsibility for giving false evidence since criminal proceedings have been brought against him and he cannot testify against himself. He is simply providing information connected with the signing of a number of documents at his own wish. Charges have not been brought against him and to all appearances will not be brought. The general prosecutor's office has driven itself into an impasse since initially criminal proceedings were instituted with the permission of Deputy General Prosecutor Makarov and only then did the prosecutor's office workers begin to seek legal grounds for this decision.

After today's explanations, B. Kuznetsov said, my client and I intend to be tough in raising the question: Either the prosecutor's office charges V. Shumeyko or the case should be halted for lack of a body of evidence. From the legal viewpoint it is virtually impossible to find a body of evidence in the first vice premier's actions. For instance, even in those cases where he signed documents for the transfer of state money to private farms and the deal later failed to go through, that can be treated as the concept of reasonable economic risk. After all, the situation could change, executive workers could fail to do their job properly, and so forth.

For our part we shall conduct an independent examination of the facts regarding which the prosecutor's office invited V. Shumeyko for a talk and interrogation.

B. Kuznetsov also announced that a civil suit will soon be lodged with the Supreme Court and the respondent will be the general prosecutor's office since the report, its representative Makarov acted on behalf of the prosecutor's office, essentially called V. Shumeyko a corrupt person.

Yegor Gaydar's Future Plans Viewed

PM0909094593 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Article by political observer Yelena Tokarev: "Without Even a Kiss..."]

[Text] Last Friday Yegor Gaydar made it clear to the public that he is prepared to enter the election struggle. And since so far there is nothing to struggle for except a deputy's seat in the universally despised "talking shop"—the Supreme Soviet—then it is for such a mundane seat that the recent Russian government premier intends to struggle.

Only six months separate us from the sad scenes which went round the world—Yegor Gaydar, who by general opinion had "given Russia a liberal kick-start," was leaving the Kremlin after resigning because his entire life had been a mistake. Leaving forever, head bowed, shoulders stooped. Another week of agony, of endless obituaries in all the newspapers and television broadcasts without exception. The march of "the Slav Woman's Farewell," as they say. The romance of the market was stifled by the apparatchiks. The intelligentsia and teachers inundated us with letters: "Your mercenary newspaper, your roughly spoken Supreme Soviet. It is shameful. That man knew Russian. He would say 'by no means.'"

In the Bolshoy Theater I personally pulled my elderly aunt from a slightly embarrassed Yegor Timurovich, whose coat hem she intended to kiss.

"We shall study science," Gaydar promised as we parted.

Of course, politics is a dirty business.

Gaydar's present press conference, in which Andrey Nechayev, who, as is known was minister of economics in Gaydar's government, also took part, was hastily cobbled together. All that was made public was that they are prepared and willing to return to power. That an election bloc has been put together and is called "Russia's choice." That there is money. And even enough money for two daily publications—the newspapers KHOZYAIN and UTRO ROSSII. Who is actually providing this money? Not, of course, the enterprises which joined together in Gaydar's association of private owners. Or at least not them alone.

In response to IZVESTIYA's question, do you see any technical possibility of early elections, there was a clear reply: "I see the inevitability of early elections." There was more bolshevik certainty in the replies when it was a question of their aim.

How? Where to lead Russia? Talk on this score was dismissed out of hand. A brief criticism of the present government: the dangerous delay in the liberalization of prices for coal, the debts to miners under the subsidies scheme, failure to reduce taxes. Where is the law on bankruptcy? In brief, the lack of resolve of the government and "that Supreme Soviet."

But if you recall last year and the value-added tax which made producers hate Gaydar? And the crisis of nonpayments without a law on bankruptcy.

Obviously politicians have problems with principles. And trouble remembering things. Why did Gaydar's government last year fail to introduce convertible debt bonds and allow the mutual offsetting of debts? Through cowardice?

One so wants truth and certainty. One so wants promises and their outcome to coincide. One does not want to wander at random again.

Nonetheless Andrey Nechayev, in reply to a question about grain, which this year is fundamental as a test, replied in the manner of last year: "I would raise grain prices gradually..." Yes, that is what they did. Working without firm guidelines, hastily. This year the Ministry of Finances decided in principle not to issue money. "That Supreme Soviet" is demanding that the peasant be paid. That peasant.

The political document of Gaydar's association of privatized and private enterprises, which deliberately harnessed together a horse and a timid deer in order to put broken backs under the election bloc of their leader, Gaydar, contains nothing about the economy this time. "The irresponsible and often deliberately destructive and provocative decisions of the Supreme Soviet threaten to cause the collapse of the market mechanism which has just been formed and consequently of Russia's unity." What is he talking about?

"The association resolutely supports the consistent policy of the deepening of economic reforms and is in solidarity with those forces in the Government which defend and implement this line." Who is he talking about?

The mysterious stranger who writes the word "government" with a capital letter and is on solidarity with some people in it is eager for power and is failing to concentrate on specific trivia like the harvest and cowers before the president is somehow not very reminiscent of Yegor Gaydar as the intelligentsia remember him. And his words are different. No "by no means" here. Brief and succinct as though he were not speaking but shooting. I fear that the librarians from Tver and the teachers from Usolsk have nothing to expect from a man who after a year in power lasted only three months as a scientist, and then wanted to be in power again.

Is power in Russia so sweet? If even the intellectuals are crazy for it? If they descend on Russia like sailors—bayonets at the ready, with no declarations of love, without even a kiss...

Plans for Elections

MK0709130293 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 7 Sep 93 p 3

[Yelena Kotelnikova report: "Meeting of Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises' Board. Yegor Gaydar Forms a New Team of Reformers"]

[Text] The shift in the political struggle toward the economic area has prompted ideologists of rapid voucher privatization underway in Russia to enlist support for their concept in the regions and at privatized enterprises. This was confirmed by the results of a two-day meeting of the board of the All-Russian Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises [ARAPPE], which ended on Saturday.

ARAPPE, headed by Yegor Gaydar, one of the ideologists of voucher privatization, has brought together over 2,000 firms from 32 of the country's regions. As stated to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent by Aleksey Golovkov, the association's executive director, the association claims to be a center capable of achieving post-privatization objectives at former state-owned enterprises.

Specialists believe that the effort to resolve post-privatization problems locally may cushion the social consequences of privatization (particularly the growth in unemployment) and, if successful, this effort will also give a boost to further denationalization. The association's strong suit is its proximity to the State Property

Committee, whose backing can to a large degree help meet privatized enterprises' requirements for loans (out of money coming from the G-7) and obtain qualified consulting services.

To this end, the association's board decided to set up an infrastructure to help improve the professional skills of the privatized enterprises' managers, meet the social needs of the enterprises' workers, and provide professional legal support for the enterprises in arbitration courts. For this purpose the association and the Russian Government's Academy of the National Economy have set up a training and scientific center, a pension fund, and a law center. In addition, the association is intent on publishing its own newspapers in the regions—the daily UTRO ROSSII and the weekly KHOZYAYIN.

The main thrust of the association's activity in the near future, however, will be preparing for parliamentary elections. All board members insist on this, including President Yegor Gaydar, Vice President Petr Filippov, and Executive Director Aleksey Golovkov. All of them are members of the executive committee of the "Russia's Choice" ["Vybor Rossii"] bloc, which adopted its election platform in August 1993. Recently, it is precisely this bloc that has increasingly been seen as the president's own party, and the association could well join it as a collective member.

[The article includes the following boxed passage]

Excerpts from the appeal of the All-Russian Association of Privatized and Private Enterprises "To the Russian Public, Authorities, and Political Associations"

—The Russian economy has reached a turning point in its development. However, irresponsible and often deliberately destructive and provocative decisions by the Supreme Soviet threaten the collapse of nascent market mechanisms, and hence Russia's unity.

—The association decisively stands for a consistent policy of even more profound economic reform and declares solidarity with government forces that defend and pursue this line.

—On behalf of the association, which has brought together thousands of firms and enterprises, and also of the hundreds of thousands of Russian citizens working for them, we call on all branches of power to use only constitutional ways to settle the crisis and to do their utmost to stabilize the political and economic situation in the country.

—The association calls for adopting as soon as possible Russia's new constitution and a law on elections, drafts of which have already been approved by the Constitutional Conference.

—The association also stands for holding early parliamentary elections—the country's parliament should reflect the mood in society, otherwise it will degenerate into a source of continuous tensions.

—We call on all political movements and parties to support the idea of calling early parliamentary elections and to back the "Russia's Choice" bloc in elections, a bloc set up on the association's initiative.

New Committee Calls For 'Gradual Transition' to Democracy

LD0809181493 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1522 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—Russia's newly created inter-regional public committee "Accord for the Fatherland" has called for gradual transition towards a democratic federative state.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday [8 September], committee members said that the committee will be seeking an "evolutionary way towards a federative, democratic and law-governed state."

The committee also plans to hold an assembly of peoples and citizens of Russia. It will comprise structures which will be financed from regional budgets and operate under the supervision of the parliamentary centre for inter-ethnic and inter-regional problems, according to Yuriy Skokov, one of the committee members.

The participants in the news conference stressed that the committee should not be considered as a pre-election bloc. However they added that when the movement under the same name is established it will determine its attitude towards future parliamentary elections.

Yevgeniy Kozhokin, a member of the parliamentary committee for defence and security issues, supported the ideas of the new committee which, he believes, could become a powerful force to resist the dangerous ideology of the opposition National Salvation Front.

"Unfortunately, I should state that the current political situation in Russia is similar to that when fascist regimes began coming to power in Europe," Kozhokin said.

"In the 30's, Germany was simmering with ideas of revenge and thoughts about lost lands. If we recall the logos of German Social Democrats, they, unlike fascist ideas, were not supported by people," Kozhokin said.

He believes the committee's main task is to make sure that "all political forces participating in the committee come to agreement on the principles of political interaction." Committee members have pledged "to prioritise what unites compatriots and citizens in it irrespective of personal beliefs or political views."

"The committee Accord for the Fatherland is not a bloc since it has not its own ideology, economic or political programme. At present this is just an initiative of Russian politicians of an ideological nature," Kozhokin said.

Businessmen's Movement Coordinator Describes Election Plans

LD0709163293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1449 GMT 7 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Galkin]

[Text] Moscow September 7 TASS—The recently set up "Businessmen for a New Russia" movement has launched vigorous efforts to set up sections in the regions of Russia. They are already active in Yekaterinburg, Krasnoyarsk, Novosibirsk, Samara, Sochi, and several other cities. Konstantin Zatulin, coordinator of the movement, is spending most of his time on various distant missions and could hardly carve out an hour in-between trips to Vladimir and Samara for an interview with ITAR-TASS.

Dwelling on the strategic task of the movement's regional sections, which is to pool on the spot the efforts of businessmen first and foremost, as well as the efforts of the owners and directors of enterprises, Zatulin also touched on some immediate goals. One of them is to set up a powerful elections bloc. He believes the organisation of such a bloc will add the last touch to the movement's political formation. It intends to consolidate the political parties of right-wing centrist and conservative-liberal orientation, in particular, the Republican Party and the "Renovation" Union, and possibly the Party of National Unity and Concord, which is being set up by Sergey Shakhray, along with the Free Labour Party, the Movement for Democratic Reforms, and the Industrial Party, if the latter is set up.

"We are trying to turn our narrow professional movement of businessmen into a foundation for a civic elections bloc, which will have its own leaders," Zatulin stressed. "They include the leaders of the foregoing parties and also some independent candidates, such as Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, for instance. Our regional sections will provide the foundation for such an elections bloc, since the mentioned parties are not represented in all the regions of the country."

"In the forthcoming elections campaign, which is bound to be very expensive," Zatulin added, "businessmen will be able to back responsible candidates both organisationally and financially. We prefer the candidates not to be businessmen, but to be competent personalities, backing them."

As to the directors, Zatulin believes they possess an even greater "organisational potential". "They are able to persuade their work collectives to vote for definite candidates. And, finally, they can prompt them to call a strike. True, they still lack sufficient experience and practical know-how necessary to promote the political process. Nevertheless, we are witnessing changes here, too. A definite environment has been created around commercial directors and funds are being accumulated, which may be used in the election struggle. I know that the Tyumen Union of Industrialists is making contributions from each tonne of petroleum it sells to the funds set up for the future elections campaign."

"For several reasons, I believe we shall not strike an elections alliance with the 'Russia Option' bloc and with 'Democratic Russia', Zatulin said, "although our strategic goal is more or less identical and alliances may be concluded the very next day after the elections. But this must not happen before then, because we cannot assume any responsibility for the stupidity of radicalism, for its ability to create problems and inability to resolve them, displayed by radicals from the 'Democratic Russia' movement and their placemen."

Consolidation Party Urges Yeltsin-Khasbulatov Talks

MK0709122593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 93 p 4

[Igor Nekrasov report under the "In Brief" column: "So That Government and Parliament Can Reach Agreement Soon"]

[Text] Moscow politicians' activity has evoked a response in the Urals. Yesterday, the Consolidation Party read out its statement calling for direct talks between Boris Yeltsin and Ruslan Khasbulatov. Party Chairman Aleksandr Tikhonov, who is also general director of the "InterUral" firm, said that 19,000 small and medium-size entrepreneurs who are members of his party are concerned about the political standoff in the country. "All of us," he said, "are hostages to this confrontation. But in effect it has no underlying economic contradictions. Both sides are eager to achieve the same objective." Given the current situation, the Consolidation Party stated, the only possible way to reconcile differences is to reach agreement between the branches of power. The party pledged to facilitate it by all lawful means available.

Stepankov Predicts New Leadership in Moscow

LD0909084693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0400 GMT 9 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Bagdatyev]

[Text] Perm, 9 Sep (TASS)—In an exclusive interview for the oblast ZVEZDA paper, published in his native Perm Oblast, Valentin Stepankov, Russia's procurator general, said that a third force—a conglomerate of politicians and representatives of industry—would soon come to power in Russia.

He refused to dwell in greater detail on the identity of this force, but described it as follows: "I think that it will be people who assess realistically the economic situation and the interests of all regions. This political force, which will come to power and will keep power, ought to understand the vital interests of the people of Russia who have come to be in a complicated situation because of incomprehensible reformist actions and the exacerbation of the political struggle".

Stepankov expressed the thought that one should not expect some sort of radical communist forces or superdemocratic forces to come to power.

End of 'Yeltsin Era' Predicted

PM0809140993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Yeltsin Era Drawing to a Close"]

[Text] The 7 September issue of the German newspaper RHEINISCHE POST in a commentary entitled "The Grand Illusionist" comes to the conclusion that the Yeltsin era is drawing to a close.

Yeltsin was once a great fighter, the newspaper writes. He led the opposition to victory over the all-powerful CPSU. But his adversaries no longer take him seriously now. When he wanted to introduce presidential rule in the country in March, Vice President Rutskoy and parliamentary chairman Khasbulatov, who were seriously worried, appeared jointly on an evening television program. A session of the Congress of People's Deputies was convened immediately.

Those adversaries of Yeltsin who are a mite more intelligent watch in silence as the president tilts like Don Quixote against the powerful windmill of the Russian Constitution. And simply wait for him to accomplish his own undoing.

Activities of Top Government Officials Detailed

PM0809144793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Sep 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Visits, Conferences**

On Tuesday, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the head of the government, chaired an extraordinary session of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers Presidium. It was held without representatives of the press being present. The routine session of the Council of Ministers will be held next Thursday as usual.

Oleg Soskovets, first vice premier, held a session of the Council of Ministers Commission on Operational Questions. The draft Federal Program for the retooling and development of Russia's metallurgical industry for 1993-2000 presented by the Russian Federation Committee on the Metallurgical Industry was discussed. A question on the "Aeroflot-Russian International Airlines" joint-stock company was also discussed.

Taking part in the commission's work were vice premiers Boris Fedorov, Aleksandr Shokhin, Anatoliy Chubays, and Yuriy Yarov.

Oleg Lobov, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, held a collegium of the Economics Ministry. Then he took part in a conference on problems of the development of Voronezh Oblast.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin took part in the seminar "The Kuzbass: Experience and Problems of Interregional and International Cooperation" which opened at the International Trade Center yesterday.

Then Aleksandr Shokhin met with journalists. The briefing, held at the government press center, was dedicated to Russia's foreign economic ties and prospects for the CIS Economic Union.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov held a telephone conference in the morning on questions of exporting produce to regions of the Far North. In the afternoon he took part in a conference on the creation of a medical diagnostic center.

Talks

Oleg Lobov, first vice premier and Russian economy minister, held talks with an Armenian government delegation headed by Grant Bagratyan, the republic's prime minister. A decision was adopted on the joint restoration and subsequent operation of the Yerevan Nuclear Electric Power Station. [passage omitted]

Comments

Russian Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray characterized the present situation as the final stage in the "paralysis of federal power." Addressing journalists at a meeting in Kazan, he said that it is necessary to renew power and "change direction for the sake of preserving Russia." S. Shakhray categorically rejected a suggestion about his participation in the preparation of the president's Edict on the temporary removal from office of vice president Aleksandr Rutskoy and first vice premier Vladimir Shumeyko. At the same time he characterized the document itself as "legally impeccable." "There is a moral aspect to the edict—that is, the desire to halt the process of the disintegration of power and self-castigation," the vice premier said. He expressed the confidence that after examination all the charges "against both Rutskoy and Shumeyko will disappear."

Contacts

Old debts should not stand in the way of the new Russian-Polish relations, Stanislaw Ciosek, Polish ambassador to Moscow, stated at a meeting with Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov. In the first vice premier's words, he sees joint ventures capable of producing the latest output and selling it to third countries for hard currency as a real and useful way of clearing those debts.

Viktor Yerin, Russian internal affairs minister, received the ambassadors of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, and Sweden accredited to Moscow. During the conversation they discussed the strengthening of cooperation between the internal affairs organs of Russia and the

Nordic states. According to information from the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry press center, "measures to strengthen cooperation among the internal affairs organs" were planned.

Consultations

The State Committee for Affairs of the Federation and Nationalities began international consultations in Khabarovsk on questions pertaining to the indigenous peoples of the Arctic and Siberia. Representatives of the United Nations, the Committee of nongovernmental organizations on holding the international year of the indigenous peoples of the world, as well as the State Committee on the Socioeconomic Development of the North and the administration of Khabarovsk Kray took part in them.

Conflicts

Yuriy Shafranik, minister of fuel and energy, stated that he "is working strenuously with the government and financial organs to find sources of finance for the fulfillment of the tariff agreement" with miners. "I have been instructed to do so by the president and the premier," the minister stressed. In the words of Ivan Mokhnachuk, deputy chairman of the independent coal industry union, 50 billion rubles had already been transferred to miners' collectives by 6 September. "Assurances have been received from Moscow that a further 30 billion rubles will be transferred during the week," he said.

Council of Ministers Appoints Three

PM0709131993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 3 Sep 93 p 2

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Text] **Appointments**

A directive of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government has appointed:

Aleksandr Ivanovich Kazakov deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property;

Valeriy Valeryanovich Grishin first deputy leader of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Press Service.

Oleg Kuzentsov [surname as published], 43 years old, has been appointed the new deputy head of Khabarovsk Kray Administration and chairman of the Food Committee. Prior to this he was working as chief of the Trade and Catering Administration of the kray administration.

Yerin Views Struggle Against Crime

OW0909080793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel and Orbita Networks in Russian 1845 GMT 2 Sep 93

[By Ye. Fateyev, including interview with Viktor Fedorovich Yerin, minister of internal affairs; place and date not given; from the "Utro" program]

[Text] It seems things in Russia are improving as far as crime is concerned, rather, as far as the growth of crime is concerned. If by the end of August last year crime in all categories increased by 30 percent, this year it rose by only 4 percent.

[Begin Yerin recording] There has been significant progress. The number of crimes has decreased in several regions. This is not just a decrease on paper, but is a real decrease in crime. Crimes are being uncovered more effectively in many regions and their number in Russia is significantly greater than last year's indicators. So believe me, personnel from the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MVD] are doing everything possible to cope with the crime wave. [end recording]

Viktor Yerin, Russian Federation minister of internal affairs, gave this interview for our program in connection with the expanded meeting of the ministry's collegium, which has just been held. The meeting adopted a decision—probably the most fundamental one in the history of the MVD—on the transformation of city, rayon, and transport and regular militia subunits.

[Begin recording] [Yerin] It is sufficient to say that 2,700 subunits of this kind are operating on the territory of the Russian Federation, and more than 90 percent of all our personnel are working in them. These are the people who wage a direct struggle against crime, who are involved in the defense of public order and traffic safety every day. Ultimately the real state of affairs in ensuring law and order in all Russian population centers depends on their success or lack of success.

The heads of 2,700 city and rayon MVD branches, as well as regular subunits of transport militia, will now become big bosses in reality and will be able to free themselves of trivial meddling by Moscow and other higher ranking leaders. The heads of Internal Affairs organs are getting considerably broader rights both to solve personnel issues—to hire or fire personnel, to promote or release them from duty, and to create subunits as required by the operative situation—and to solve a whole series of other questions concerning the management of their forces and resources; the strengthening of their material, technical, and social base; and the more intensive work of personnel.

I would not say all ministers and heads of Internal Affairs administrations have accepted these proposals readily, because to some extent they could be losing their grasp on certain levers of influence. But we think this policy is absolutely correct, that the leader on the spot who directly manages personnel should be responsible for the solution of all professional issues.

[Fateyev] So now Russian heads of rayon or city branches could be compared to American sheriffs?

[Yerin] No, I would....

[Fateyev, interrupting] Or is it too early to say that yet?

[Yerin] ....raise their status higher than that of an American sheriff. By his status—and more importantly by his knowledge, experience, and professional skills—a militia chief is a more important figure in our hierarchy.

[Fateyev] What about his opportunities and financial means?

[Yerin] Well yes, unfortunately we lag behind the more developed countries in this area, and of course we would like to have considerably more. But we have prospects. Literally a month ago the government of the Russian Federation reviewed and approved a program for a gradual strengthening of the material and technical base of Internal Affairs organs up to 1995. Yes, today criminal elements are attempting to raise their heads. But I am full of optimism and consider that without a doubt we will achieve success. [end recording]

Media Issues

Yeltsin Signs Decree on Auctioning State TV Enterprises

LD0809160793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree on the procedure of auctioning state enterprises for technical maintenance of television and radio broadcasts. The text of the decree circulated on Wednesday [8 September] stipulates conditions for auctioning and contains a list of enterprises to be transformed into joint stock societies.

The Russian State Committee for State Property shall in established procedure transform the given enterprises into joint stock societies until November 1, 1993 with their subsequent privatisation.

The list of enterprises to be auctioned includes the Television Technical Centre, the State House for Radio Broadcasting and Sound Recording, the Russian Technological Centre and a number of other enterprises in Moscow and some Russian cities.

Joint-Stock Companies To Be Created

MK0909101493 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Sep 93 p 2

[Mikhail Shapiro report: "President Begins Converting State Television and Radio Into Joint-Stock Company"]

[Text] On Tuesday [7 September] evening Boris Yeltsin signed an edict transforming enterprises providing services to state television and radio companies into joint-stock firms. Although the president's official spokesmen emphasize that this is simply a technical document, observers believe that it will enable Yeltsin to enlist television journalists' support during yet another stage of his standoff with the Supreme Soviet. This measure may be assessed as the president's counterstrike after parliament overrode the presidential veto on amendments to the Law on the Mass Media.

The drafting of the edict on transforming enterprises providing services to state television and radio companies into joint-stock firms encountered a number of snags: Its signing was put off several times because of television and radio companies' differences with the State Property Committee. However, despite frequent organizational and political contradictions among the chiefs of Ostankino, the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company (ASTRC), and the State Property Committee, this time all concerned parties signed the draft edict.

Kirill Ignatyev, first deputy chairman of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company, emphasized in an interview with your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent that the edict came as an extremely opportune step that will enable the state system of television and radio broadcasting to function normally. Until recently, the workers' collectives of television and radio companies did not own firms providing technical services. "None of the world's large television companies have had anything like this," Kirill Ignatyev said. In Ignatyev's view, converting the television's technical center into a joint-stock company will enable Ostankino to operate more efficiently.

The Supreme Soviet's reaction to the presidential edict is not yet known. It is highly likely, though, that it will not be too positive. On the other hand, it will be somewhat inconsistent for the parliament speaker, who held a meeting with ASTRC staff and assured journalists that he was "undoubtedly intent on backing Russian television," to find fault with an edict approved by ASTRC management.

Yeltsin, Parliament Dispute Media Law

MK0309114093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 3 Sep 93 p 3

[Oleg Shisterin report under "President on Censorship in Mass Media" rubric: "Boris Yeltsin Does Not Recognize the Oversight Council"]

[Text] On the eve of another consideration of amendments to the media law, which has been returned by the president to the Supreme Soviet—providing in particular for the establishment of oversight councils to ensure freedom of expression—Boris Yeltsin decided to officially state his attitude to the "attempt to impose censorship." Yesterday his press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov said that Boris Yeltsin does not intend to send representatives to the oversight council on freedom of expression. This statement could possibly be seen as another step by the president in his "fall offensive" against parliament.

The president returned for repeat consideration the law on amendments to the media law, which the Supreme Soviet already adopted. In spite of the deputies' militant mood, two weeks ago they failed to override the presidential veto by postponing discussion of the amendments. Nonetheless, the first discussion did produce results—it demonstrated parliament's complete rejection of the president's amendments voiding the law's basic task—to create a federal council to ensure freedom of expression on television, which is to include two representatives each from the president, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the Journalists' Union, and one representative from each of the 14 factions in the Supreme Soviet.

What the president's supporters regard as unequal representation is the reason behind the resignation of Press Minister Mikhail Fedotov, who did not wish to "take part in stifling freedom of expression." Although the minister's departure was caused more by the need to make room for Mikhail Poltoranin, the president cleverly used his resignation to create an appropriate atmosphere surrounding the law's amendments.

Mr. Kostikov's statement will hardly force the Supreme Soviet to revise its attitude, but the deputies will find themselves in a difficult position—the previous consideration of the law was postponed owing to the fact that Deputy Press Minister David Tsabriya lacked official powers to represent the president's interests. Presumably, this time around the president will again not send his official representative to the Supreme Soviet.

[Article contains following boxed passage]

From the president's press secretary statement

Recently there have been repeated encroachments on freedom of expression by the Russian Supreme Soviet. Attempts are being made to revise the Law on the Media from an undemocratic stance. The Supreme Soviet's proposed amendments undo the results of many years of fighting by the democratic public of Russia for freedom of expression.

One of the most dangerous amendments adopted by the Supreme Soviet provides for the introduction of an oversight council on freedom of expression at state radio and television. In this regard I am authorized to announce the president's basic disagreement with the introduction of antidemocratic changes to the Law on the Media. The president does not intend to send his representatives to the oversight council.

As far as journalists are concerned, I should like to hope that in their personal capacity as citizens of free Russia and through their Journalists Union they will manage to express their attitude toward the Supreme Soviet's attempts to introduce political censorship and will refuse to take part in the oversight council that the antidemocratic forces are seeking to impose.

Journalists Protest Media Bill; Draft Own Version

LD0809202293

[Editorial Report] Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian at 1520 GMT on 8 September carries an 8 minute 15 second report on a news conference given in Moscow today by heads of Russian mass information media. They reported on the situation regarding the adoption of the law on TV and radio broadcasting. Igor Telnevskiy reports that the essence of the question is that the Russian Supreme Soviet is planning to examine the draft bill on TV and radio broadcasting in its coming session. The bill was drafted by the Mass Information Media committee.

Journalists are greatly opposed to it. Under the bill they are forbidden to express their own point of view. Each company is to have a Council of Administrators in addition to the Federal, Supervisory, and many other councils. The new Council of Administrators has 14 members appointed directly by the Supreme Soviet and, as the correspondent understands it, coming from the Supreme Soviet.

This council determines program policy, elaborates standards, and even ratifies rules of internal organization. Thus, freedom of speech, gained with such effort, is gradually whittled away. The creative workers who gathered in Moscow House of the Press clearly voiced their concern, making references to international obligations.

The correspondent plays back a speech at the press conference by Secretary of the Union of Journalists (Ilya Semenchuk) that cites international documents on media and information and protests, on behalf of the Russian Union of Journalists, against the new media bill prepared by the Supreme Soviet.

Correspondent Igor Telnevskiy says that not only do Russian journalists protest the media bill as drafted by the Supreme Soviet, but they have drawn up an alternative draft law that takes into account several of the previous versions of the bill, including the Supreme Soviet draft. Kirill Ignatyev [the deputy chairman of the Ostankino radio and TV company] introduced the new draft at the press conference. He dwelt at some length on the question of the circulation of information by official bodies, which he said was one of the focal points of the new bill. In accordance with it, state and municipal bodies and individual officials may not demand mandatory circulation of information by radio and TV companies unless otherwise prescribed by the law on media. They may not demand that scheduled programs be replaced by urgent political broadcasts. The bill envisages only four exceptions to this. These are: court decisions; decisions of the founder of the broadcasting company; a right to response; and a right to rebuttal. In other cases, if a state body or an official would like a report or an address to be broadcast, an appropriate request should be submitted no later than 13 days prior to the day of transmission. The services of the broadcasting company in this respect are to be paid for out of the state budget. If any of these rules are violated, the broadcasting company should refuse to broadcast the program in question. However, a special exception is made for the head of state who may address the people without 13 days notice. Special rules may be applicable to a wider range of situations if a state of emergency or martial law is imposed.

The correspondent concluded by saying that the alternative media bill drawn up by Russian journalists would soon be published in full in the Russian newspapers.

Ostankino Says Parliament Restoring 'Censorship'

LD0309182393 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 3 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today, the Russian Parliament in effect restored censorship as an institution, says a statement from the press service of the Ostankino Television and Radio Company. This decision will result in the creation of censorship parties in all the regions of Russia, a network of observation councils which will exercise political control over the mass media, the document stresses.

Broadcasting Labor Collective Threatens Strike

PM0709103393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Sep 93 First Edition p 12

[Marina Murzina report: "Two Deputies Leave Supreme Soviet Commission Checking VGTRK's Activity"]

[Text] The Public Committee in Defense of the Constitution and the Constitutional System, which includes the Deputies M. Astafyev and S. Ivchenkov—who are also members of the Supreme Soviet Commission Auditing the Activity of the VGTRK [All-Russia State Television and Radio Broadcasting Company]—issued a statement 23 August on "Parliamentary Hour." Abuse and direct threats were leveled against TV and radio journalists.

A conference of the VGTRK labor collective was held a day later. There was a vote of no-confidence in Deputies Astafyev and Ivchenkov, and a letter was sent to V. Lisin, chairman of the Mass Media Committee, mentioning the psychological pressure on VGTRK staffers, and the fact that the participation of these two deputies in the commission's work raises doubts about the objectivity of its findings. The conference called for them to be expelled from the commission—otherwise the VGTRK would not make the necessary documentation available. Not to mention the fact that the Supreme Soviet is not a cofounder of the VGTRK anyway and, consequently, has no right to carry out checks of this sort.

Moreover, a strike committee was immediately set up and warned that if the public attacks on TV journalists were to continue, the collective would exercise its right to strike.

And so on 31 August a meeting was held between the TV and radio company leaders and Yu. Voronin, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet, who reported that both deputies had left the inspection commission of their own accord. Does this mean there will be no strike? Has the labor collective won? But the commission—minus the two deputies—continues work... Our questions were answered by A. Lysenko, general director of the VGTRK:

"A victory? Probably not. Rather, we were simply able to demonstrate journalists' rights and to show that we are not dumb creatures and we cannot be abused or threatened with impunity. After all, the only thing lacking in the statement—couched in the spirit of the famous 'Major Pronin's Notes'—was an outright appeal to shoot on sight those whom it wanted to view as 'U.S. spies.' You get the feeling that these people are 'stuck' back in the times of psychological warfare—they think they only have to read out 'requests' that the commission will put to our staffers... Our financial activities are being checked, but around three months ago we had a visit from a similar Ministry of the Press and Information commission that found no violations!

"Now commission head Ogorodnikov is stating that we have specially staged our 'unrest' at a time when the commission had allegedly managed to uncover some violations.

"Pluralism is pluralism, but nobody can rob us of our dignity. I think that the collective of TV journalists has succeeded in demonstrating this—and that, above all, is our victory."

Broadcasting Cuts Threatened by Payment Shortages

LD0809193193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 8 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The telecommunications trade union and work collectives at enterprises distributing and transmitting television and radio programs have demanded that the powers that be in Russia urgently resolve the issue of payment for services they are rendering on the basis of full broadcasting capacity. Anatoliy Nazeykin, chairman of the telecommunications workers' trade union, said today that the telecommunications sector is owed 38 billion rubles by state and local television and radio stations, which in their turn are not receiving money from the Russian Finance Ministry.

[Begin Nazeykin recording] If these questions are not solved by 1 October, television and radio broadcasts will have to be reduced two- or three-fold. [end recording]

[Announcer] Since 1 September, 12 radio transmitters have already been switched off in Kaliningrad Oblast due to lack of funds.

Newspaper Editors Call For Financial Assistance

LD0709203293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1528 GMT 7 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Sep—Igor Golembiovskiy, chief editor of IZVESTIYA; Aleksandr Potapov, chief editor of TRUD; Vladislav Fronin, chief editor of KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA; and Aleksandr Kharlamov, chief editor of SELSKAYA ZHIZN have addressed urgent requests and proposals to Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The journalists note in the document that "mass circulation Russian dailies strive consistently to facilitate the process of democratization and a certain degree of social stability within society during the current 'transitional' period. However, the well-known threats to strangulate the press in the financial and economic sense and to destroy the country's information space altogether and, especially, the monstrous increases in prices for the services provided by the communications workers" have made this appeal imperative.

The chief editors ask "to resolve the question of temporary lifting of taxes levied from socially important mass media; to introduce preferential postal rates for periodicals; to prevent sudden increases in the costs of rail and air transport and in the costs of delivering newspapers; to repeal the customs duties on paper sent to decentralized press centers within the CIS; to resolve the problem of mutual settlements with countries outside the ruble zone; to include newspaper deliveries on the list of obligatory postal services—-it is now on the list of additional contract-based services—and to continue the practise of subsidizing mass publications, despite the decline in the print run-offs due to the compulsory higher subscription prices, regarding the subsidies as protecting the right of the working people who take out subscriptions in order to have access to sources of objective information."

The appeal contains a call to "resolve these and other most acute issues right at the start of the subscription campaign for 1994, which has got under way."

Protest Cost of Postal Deliveries

PM0909090193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 8 Sep 93 p 1

["Own Information" report: "A Newspaper Is No Luxury..."]

[Text] Readers will soon disappear from the country—the chief editors of IZVESTIYA, TRUD, SELSKAYA ZHIZN, and KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA warned the Russian president, Supreme Soviet, and Government about this yesterday.

When did you receive this issue of the newspaper? The day after it was published, or the day after that? With that rate of delivery and the rapid rise in the price of communications services next year, 1994, the mailbox may be an even greater luxury for you than an automobile or crystal.

There is a mail department, but mailboxes are not needed. There is a Ministry of Communications, but there is no state economic policy governing circulation and delivery of the press. Attention was drawn to this by the chief editors of several Russian newspapers, who yesterday sent a letter to the Russian president, Supreme Soviet, and Government. The letter proposes measures to protect the interests of Russia's readers. They will make it possible to abandon subsidies and create equal competitive opportunities for all publications in the market.

Incidentally, the Russian Federation Government did not heed the Congress of Russian Journalists, which proposed examining these measures collectively. The president and the Supreme Soviet, carried away by the struggle for freedom of the press, have not noticed how they are destroying it economically.

...Nevertheless the subscription campaign is under way. If you live in Samara, you are in luck—you will be charged just over 1,000 rubles [R] to have KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA delivered for six months. If you live in Chelyabinsk, you will be charged almost R10,000 for the same services.

Beware unworthy Ministries of Communications!

Parliament Supports Antigovernment Papers

PM0709090193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Parliamentary Committee for the Mass Media Directly Patronizes PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and DEN"]

[Text] The editorial office has in its possession a document testifying both to the simplicity of our representative authority's morals and to its contempt for the laws passed by itself.

Thus the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Committee for the Mass Media is asking the Ministry of the Press for a special arrangement specifically for the publications which never tire of calling the present government a government of occupation which has betrayed the motherland's interests: It recommends full, priority subsidy of PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, LITERATURNAYA ROSSIYA, RUS DERZHAVNAYA, and DEN.

By all accounts the Supreme Soviet is seriously worried lest the government should drown in a chorus of approval—after all, they keep pike in ponds to keep the carp on their guard. However, giving such open preference to the pike leaves the carp no chance of survival.

All these considerations come within the sphere of morals. But there is also the legal side of things, and lawyers could not be forgiven for forgetting that. Thus, any publication has the right legally to ask the Ministry of the Press for subsidies. A special form is filled out, indicating the results of the previous period as well as upcoming expenditure and income. At the end the required total is summed up. The ministerial department of economic provision for the mass media allocates it (or does not allocate it), coordinating it with the revenue available to it. Then its decision is coordinated with the Supreme Soviet Committee for the Mass Media. Incidentally, as far as our newspaper is concerned, IZVESTIYA has not received a single kopek this year.

It is significant that, as the Ministry of the Press reported, the PRAVDA editorial office, for example, did not operate according to established procedure but turned directly to the Supreme Soviet. And it made no mistake in doing so: The letter written by Committee Chairman V. Lisin 25 August is an example of direct pressure on the government, an open indication of which mass media the Russian parliament favors, and an attempt to give preference to some newspapers, naturally to the detriment of others, for instance KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, and LITERATURNAYA GAZETA)

The one-party and unidirectional nature of the representative authority stands out in all its magnitude in the list presented by V. Lisin. How can it be combined with the democracy of the soviets that the respected Supreme Soviet chairman never tires of affirming? One can only assume that he is unaware of the tastes and loyalties of another chairman—the chairman of the Committee for the Mass Media. Otherwise, if he had familiarized himself with them, he would have immediately adopted drastic measures to protect democracy in his usual way.

PRAVDA Reacts

PM0609111193 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Sep 93 p 1

[PRAVDA staffers' article: "IZVESTIYA Looks Into Someone Else's Pocket. And Informs the World"]

[Text] As a reader has remarked, it is a long time since we entered into disputes with the "independent" pro-presidential IZVESTIYA. But in this particular case we cannot keep silent over that newspaper's publication of an anonymous article on its front page entitled "Parliamentary Mass Media Committee Is Outright Patron of PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, and DEN."

The denunciatory, tale-telling nature of that newspaper's articles has long been plain to professional journalists. It has long outdone the old PRAVDA with its categorical ideas and toadying articles. The readers have, evidently, also noted this tone. The rapid decline in the ambitious publication's circulation is the best confirmation of that.

Remember how indignant it got recently about the system of state subsidies for periodicals. But that was merely a blind for naive readers. Last year IZVESTIYA gobbled up almost a billion rubles from the state coffers. And it only failed to get fresh donations for one reason—it did not account for last year's money.

The newspaper was silent about the fact that PRAVDA has not received a single kopek from the Russian treasury for over a year, although our readers are just as much taxpayers as IZVESTIYA's admirers. And as you know, the state purse is formed from their taxes. Why should the reader of PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, or DEN only sustain those publications that the president likes? Why can TRUD, IZVESTIYA, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, ARGUMENTY I FAKTY, and LITERATURNAYA GAZETA gobble up billions of rubles, and yet the "democrats" are sickened by the millions in subsidies to opposition newspapers? Evidently, that is the kind of democrats they are.

In our view, the Russian Supreme Soviet has restored justice and finally abandoned political bias. Although we have not been repaid last year's debt.

IZVESTIYA Refutes Charges

PM0609154193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed article: "Glasnost Should Not Be Confused With 'Informing'"]

[Text] When PRAVDA was closed down the day after the putsch, IZVESTIYA stated that it was a mistake by the president and that in a democratic society all the press—including the opposition press—should have equal status.

When, a year later, PRAVDA was refused a financial subsidy, our newspaper again advocated that the principle of equal treatment for different publications be observed and spoke up for material support for them irrespective of their political views.

When, a few days ago, the editorial office learned of the appeal from V. Lisin, chairman of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Mass Media Committee, to the Ministry of the Press proposing that PRAVDA, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, the newspaper DEN, and other opposition publications should receive their subsidy for the third quarter of this year **"in the full stated amount...on a priority basis,"** IZVESTIYA (No. 165) reaffirmed its position that all the mass media should be treated equally. There is no room for preferential treatment.

PRAVDA took offense—on its own behalf and on behalf of the Supreme Soviet. An article in its issue No. 170 was entitled "IZVESTIYA Looks Into Someone Else's Pocket. And Informs the World." We would recall that we are not talking about the pocket of some newspaper, but about the taxpayers' pocket. Nobody is allowed to dig into that pocket to benefit their political comrades—much less on a "priority basis." Even the former PRAVDA employee who is now chairman of a parliamentary committee. There is a difference between glasnost and "informing."

Without bothering to set out the facts accurately, PRAVDA confuses its readers by claiming that: "Last year IZVESTIYA gobbled up almost 1 billion rubles [R] from the state coffers. And it only failed to get fresh donations for one reason—it did not account for last year's money." For PRAVDA readers' information—the money (R840 million) was received by the "Izvestiya Sovetov Narodnykh Deputatov Rossiyskoy Federatsii" Publishing House for the publishing of the newspaper. And it failed to account for only part of it—R300 million.

One last point. We are already getting used to an original method of providing proof of an argument—to the question "Do you have a Swiss bank account?" people now answer "I am fighting corruption." Any argument will be used except the most important—namely, the facts.

Itogi Program To Leave Ostankino

LD0509201393 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1521 GMT 5 Sep 93

[Excerpts] As has already been reported, the Sunday analytical program "Itogi" will in the near future be leaving Ostankino Television's First Program. Our correspondent Kirill Shakhnovich interviewed the program's presenter, Yevgeniy Kiselev.

[Begin recording] [Shakhnovich] Yevgeniy, is it really the case that "Itogi" will be going out for the last time on Ostankino on 19 September?

[Kiselev] It's more a case of an approximately-scheduled date, given that we intend to go out as part of the new independent nonstate MTV television company at the beginning of October. That is the most important thing—that there is a decision in principle that "Itogi" is to become part of a new team of journalists being set up by this new independent television operation, MTV. And we are making a point of not expanding the abbreviation—let people interpret it as they will.

[Shakhnovich] But why are you leaving? After all, you will be losing a colossal audience.

[Kiselev] The first point is, who is saying we will not win it back? Yes, we may well lose our audience. And the question of which channel we will be transmitting on as yet remains open. There is such a large number of them. Television has become an arena for vicious political tussles. Undoubtedly there is hidden pressure here. Actually we sometimes spend time tilting at windmills and that is very exhausting.

Keep in mind also that there are many other considerations, economic considerations. I make no secret of the fact that I want to earn a lot more, a lot better, than I do today. Why do I mention our level of income? Actually, as far as I personally am concerned things are fairly OK. My earnings are not bad at all. But I cannot just think of myself. I have my team too, and these people are earning a paltry amount. When all is said and done, that affects the quality of our product. Television is an area where technical progress—forgive me for sounding so banal—is progressing by leaps and bounds, and one does not want to look like a country bumpkin against that kind of background. [passage omitted]

I would not say that we have had idyllic relations with the Ostankino management. Far from it. There are differing visions of news and information on television in general—this is an objective thing, but there are differing approaches.

Permit me to mention one other point which has prompted us to make this decision. I refer to all the actions being taken by our legislators who are effectively drawing up a law on the mass media, and I have no intention of becoming a plaything in the hands of members of some kind of supervisory council. [passage omitted]

I believe that in the new conditions we will be trying to make use of all the technical, financial, and human opportunities now coming our way to produce work that is better and more interesting. [end recording]

Economic Issues

Finance Ministry Seeks All Payments in Rubles

LD0809180893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1521 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—The most acceptable way of improving the financial position in Russia is to make all payments on the Russian territory only in roubles beginning from October this year, Anatoliy Golovaty, deputy finance minister of Russia, told ITAR-TASS.

Commenting on the proposal by Russian minister of economics, Oleg Lobov, which the latter set forth in his memorandum sent to the Russian president at the end of August, Anatoliy Golovaty said that the gist of this proposal lies in stabilizing the rouble rate of exchange by taking a system of measures which would allow to stop payments in foreign currency in Russia. According to Anatoliy Golovaty, Oleg Lobov only repeated the idea of the Russian Finance Ministry which have been trying to realize it for a long time through the legislative and executive bodies of power.

The deputy finance minister believes that protection of the national currency requires the immediate strict implementation of the presidential decree on stopping circulation of other countries' currencies in Russia, as well as the insertion of a corresponding clause into the law on currency exchange regulation.

A practical step in the implementation of this project will be setting up a wide network of exchange offices in the Russian Federation where everyone will be able to exchange any currency for roubles. At the same time, Anatoliy Golovaty stressed, the closure of shops where goods are sold for hard currency, is out of question, the matter is that all payments should be made in roubles. Exchange counters will help perform such operations.

Certainly, these measures are only part of a large-scale program for the stabilization of the rouble rate of exchange. The main attention in this program is paid to the general improvement of the state of the Russian economy.

Fedorov Criticizes Lobov's Economic Proposals

LD0809135493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Deputy Prime Minister Lobov's proposals have been criticized by Finance Minister Fedorov, who is a proponent of a rapid transition to market economy. Talking to journalists, he said that Lobov's plan runs counter to Russia's present economic policy in every respect. In his view, the economy is now emerging from crisis, and monthly inflation figures for September should be below 20 percent.

Results of Coal Miners' Strike Detailed

PM0809153993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 7 Sep 93

[By Aleksandr Shkirando and Vladimir Gusev; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Sixty-seven percent of all the sector's enterprises took part in the Russia-wide 24-hour miners' strike.

[Shkirando] As a result of this action some 6 billion rubles' worth of output failed to be sold and delivered. A number of mines and open cuts were operating but not shipping out coal to consumers. Let me remind you that the main objective of the strike is a fight for implementation of the government resolution on state support and funding for the coal industry.

The 24-hour warning strike was entirely economic in character. And it seems to have produced some results. Thus 50 billion rubles were transmitted to mining collectives in Russia yesterday. Naturally this sum is still a long way off the debt run up by the government in recent months. That is why the strike alert is being maintained in a number of regions.

Peasants Said 'on Verge of Striking'

PM0809135993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Sep 93 p 2

[Valentin Khalin report: "Peasants on Verge of Striking"]

[Text] This was stated by the coordinating council and central committee of the Union of Agroindustrial Complex Workers. During the last month it is not only days spent harvesting that have been hectic for Russia's agricultural workers. Rallies have been held and provincial "White Houses" have been picketed in oblast, kray, and republic centers. An All-Russia Peasant Defense Day was held in August. Over 1.1 million people participated in various forms of collective action in 68 regions, which is 11 times greater than in 1992.

The peasant "caldron" has reached boiling point. No wonder. The rapacious "reforms" of the powers-that-be have crushed everything like a destructive steamroller—economic ties, farms' financial equilibrium, their level of technical equipment, and the sphere of everyday cultural and social life. The other day the coordinating council for collective action by Russian agroindustrial complex workers delivered a statement. It says that the central committee of the Union of Agroindustrial Complex Workers and the coordinating council, as the authorized representatives of the peasants, have exhausted at federal level all reconciliation procedures provided by law. A list of the farmers' demands was considered at labor arbitration sessions in which representatives of the Labor Ministry, Ministry of the Economy, Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia, and central committee of the Union of Agroindustrial Complex Workers participated. The arbitration decision has been sent to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet and Government. Should the demands not be met before 20 September, an all-sector strike will begin. If so, measures to ensure the maximum preservation of agricultural products are envisaged. During a strike they will be sold directly to the population, temporarily stored at dairy plants and meat combines, given out as payment in kind, and so forth.

The Siberians have already started. In Kemerovo Oblast 198 out of 260 farms have stopped shipments. For over a month they have not been delivering milk and meat in Krasnoyarsk Kray's southern rayons...

Union Leader Outlines Oil Industry's Needs

PM0809140193 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Sep 93 First Edition p 4

[Article by Vladimir Medvedev, president of the Russian Union of Oil Industry Workers: "From the Policy of Directives to the Policy of Guardianship"]

[Text] The Union of Oil Industry Workers was organized in February of last year, effectively uniting the extractors and prospectors of hydrocarbon raw materials on the territory of the former USSR. I will remark that the union is not a political organization, although, as they sometimes say, where there is oil there is discord, and where there is discord it is not always possible to steer clear of political problems. An organization of unions like ours, I am sure, is more effective than the creation of political parties—those "general staffs" without armies. We do not set ourselves the the task of "fighting the state," as follows from the doctrine of Western-style consistent liberalism. But we intend to stand up for our special and economic interests.

Where the oil industry is concerned, the state must finally switch from a policy of issuing directives to a policy of guardianship in the interests of the state itself. Large oil companies are already being formed, and state concerns are being floated. It is preferable that oil corporations or industrial-financial groups be set up in vertically integrated form, that is to say from the extraction of oil, for example, to gas pumps or the production of petrochemical products—plastics, fibers, and solvents. There should be enough of these groups to ensure the competitiveness without which a market cannot exist.

Of course, it is not a question of the rampant competition of the "Oklahoma crude" days. Organizational changes after the experience of other countries could play a definite role in reducing inflation through the particular features of intracorporational payments.

As for production overhaul, a two-way approach is needed here: Maintaining and increasing the level of oil production should be combined with energy conservation throughout the national economy. After all, energy consumption in commodity production in Russia is twice as high as in the United States and three times as high as in Europe. The chaotic slump in production in the last two years has not led to a reduction in energy consumption but has actually increased it by 34 percent. At the same time there are savings to be made here: The energy conservation potential is estimated at a magnitude of 200 million tonnes—roughly as much as is consumed today by the whole of Siberia. World experience indicates that it is cheaper to save energy than increase the extraction of energy sources. Stepping up the refining of oil at our refineries from 60 to 70-75 percent should be assigned to this same sphere of technical policy. Talks on this subject have been going on for around 15 years at least. However, all this requires sizeable capital investments, whereas we find ourselves in an "investments trough." At the same time the oil industry was and remains the country's main hard currency donor. The fuel and energy complex' share of hard currency contributions already exceeds 70 percent, plus the outrageous taxes, which I do not even want to talk about. Today the sector has been in effect subsidizing all consumers for half a year. The debts run into several trillions. I think that today the Russian economy depends on the oil and gas industry to a greater degree than did the USSR economy before. No wonder that, given such a fiscal approach to the sector, its technical level is in a pitiful state.

If no resources at all are invested in production, we cannot get ourselves out of this "trough." Experts believe that, in order to return to the level of oil production of the eighties in eight-10 years we need to invest $5 billion per year at 1992 prices or $10-12 billion at 1984 prices. More intensive attraction of foreign capital will be required. The funding of projects on a long-term basis with the opening of "credit lines" is preferable to "linked credits."

The opinion exists that the attraction of foreigners will necessarily entail the plundering of our natural resources. The experience of countries carrying out market reforms both in the "shock" and "evolutionary" (China, for example) versions, shows that without a certain openness in the economy it is structurally impossible to prepare it for market relations. No plundering of natural resources will take place if foreign capital is attracted on conditions accepted in states with an established market economy. Our union will seek maximum participation of the Russian side in every joint project. Foreign investors should be attracted primarily to the exploitation of deposits that have been already prospected, but not yet exploited. As for the plundering of raw materials, that is happening today even without the intervention of foreign capital. As far as transactions with oil and oil products are concerned, anything goes. Nor is there any mechanism clearly regulating relations between the oil industry and the regions. Such legal holes frighten away serious investors. It is impossible to build a market economy on the basis of sporadic decrees and resolutions!

However, no attention is being paid to any of this. Moreover, we continue to be accused of earning fabulous sums from increasing prices. And everyone has somehow forgotten that oil prices until recent times were compulsorily frozen, whereas they were freed for all other products. The relative price of oil is lower than before 1 January 1992. It cannot be claimed without analysis of the price system as a whole that such and such a product, taken by itself, is cheap or dear.

The oil industry has never demanded price rises as such. It has always been a question of a level compatible with the index of prices for equipment and services and enabling capital investments to be self-financed. I could name a number of sectors where prices have been hiked totally without justification, where the profitability reaches 70 percent. With us a deadlock has developed which can be solved only by compulsorily lowering prices in inflationary sectors, or by "setting" the fuel and energy complex on subsidies, or by raising prices for energy sources. Of course, the last option stimulates inflation, but it is impossible to drive the sickness inward indefinitely. When all sectors are placed in equal conditions, it will be easier to cope with inflation. In order to create more or less normal conditions of work for the oil industry, half of the price at the very least should remain in the sector. Otherwise, no liberalization of prices will save the oil and gas complex.

Statistics Committee Official Reports on Prices

PM0809153793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 93 First Edition p 3

[Report by Gennadiy Bortsov of the Russian State Committee for Statistics: "600 Rubles for a Movie Theater Ticket"]

[Text] The end of the last week of summer (24-31 August) saw something of a decline in the growth of food costs. They grew by 2.5 percent—notably less than in any of the previous weeks. This was mainly due to the continuing fall in the cost of vegetables (a 6.1-percent fall this time). Meat products again increased in price by 2.2 percent, milk products rose by 1.3 percent, bakery products by 3.5 percent, and confectionery products by 3.3 percent. Prices of fish products increased noticeably owing to a decline in sales volumes and the monotonous selections available [sentence as published]. On the other hand, prices of onions, fresh cabbage, and potatoes fell.

There continue to be large price differences in different parts of Russia. A selection of 19 basic products that are constantly on sale and needed for weekly consumption costs between 2,300-2,800 rubles [R] in Ulyanovsk, Naberezhnyye Chelny, and Kazan, and R8,000-11,600 in Magadan, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy, and Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. There is a 150-percent difference in average earnings in these cities.

The average price of beef in Russia had reached R1,690 a kilo by 31 August (the ratio between the maximum and minimum price was 6:1), poultry cost R1,425 (7:1), cooked sausage R2,147 (5:1), butter R1,552 (9:1), sugar R586 (4:1), 10 eggs R285 (20:1), and potatoes R165 (27:1).

Prices of industrial goods continue to surge ahead. Knitwear and footwear increased by 3.9 percent, and electrical goods by 3.8 percent. In the consumer services sphere the cost of having a dress made increased by 6.4 percent, while the cost of dry-cleaning a coat rose by 4.7 percent. The gap between prices for the same services in different cities reached huge levels. For instance, the washing and ironing of bed linen costs between R13.40 and R724, a visit to the public baths varies from R3 to R900, and a ticket to the movies costs from R50 to R600. But it should not be thought that fantastic prices mean a high level of service. The Russian service sector is still just as "unhelpful" as ever.

Space & Military Issues

Military Space Forces Launch 'Cosmos 2262' Spacecraft

LD0709143593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 7 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS stringer Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 7 Sep— A "Soyuz" carrier rocket carrying the "Cosmos 2262" spacecraft was launched at 1725 Moscow time today from the Baykonur cosmodrome by the Military Space Forces of Russia.

The Military Space Forces press center told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that the launch was successful. A satellite was placed in an orbit close to that prescribed. The launch was carried out in the interests of the Russian Ministry of Defense.

The satellite is controlled by the main center for the control and testing of spacecraft (in the town of Golitsino-2), which is part of the structure of the Military Space Forces.

Details of Launch

LD0809100493 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow, 8 Sep (ITAR-TASS)—The artificial earth satellite "Cosmos 2262" was launched from Baykonur cosmodrome on Tuesday [7 September] evening by means of a "Soyuz" carrier rocket. It carries scientific equipment designed for continuing space research. The flight control center reports that the satellite has been put into an orbit with the following parameters:

—Initial period of rotation 89.2 minutes;

—Apogee 316 km;

—Perigee 180 km;

—Orbital inclination 64.9 degrees.

Cosmonauts Continue Research Aboard 'Mir' Complex

LD0709152393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1337 GMT 7 Sep 93

[By unidentified ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow September 7 TASS—The "Mir" orbital complex, manned by Vasiliy Tsibliyev and Aleksandr Serebrov, crew members of the 14th main expedition, is continuing its flight in outer space. In keeping with the programme to study the earth's natural resources and our planet's environment, the cosmonauts have carried out another series of distant soundings of separate areas of the world's mainland and ocean. The surveys were carried out by means of a multizonal MKF-6MA camera and the "Priroda-5" photographic complex.

Experiments are being continued with scientific equipment, installed on the outside surfaces of the station and the modules. Today, for instance, the crew is measuring the spectra of roentgen and gamma rays of extraterrerstrial origin, investigating the characteristics of structural materials used for long periods of time in conditions of open space.

In accordance with the medical control programme, the crew commander will have his cardiovascular system thoroughly checked in the course of the day. The board engineer was subjected to a similar examination the day before.

Both cosmonauts are in good health.

'Nightmare' State of Space Program Viewed

LD0609154393 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 0710 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow mailbag, and here's Joe Adamov to answer more of your questions. The first one comes from Arthur Boston of Liverpool in England, and he asks: Is the Russian space program now finished?

[Adamov] Well, it's not finished, but it's experiencing what I would call a nightmare; 21,000 people have left the community adjoining our main cosmodrome, Baykonur. The clubs and movie theaters there are closed. Pedestrians dart in and out of stores in search of food, and during a whole week bread was not delivered.

The refrigerators in the stores are not working. In one place, sausage was lying in tropical heat covered by flies. Today, the Baykonur cosmodrome is the property of the Republic of Kazakhstan, but they have neither the technology nor the personnel to keep it in working condition.

The military space forces, so-called, in charge of the launching site, lack personnel—lack soldiers. The rocket that launched the recent Russian-French crew was guarded not by just plain soldiers, but by officers. The construction of new objectives at Baykonur has been stopped. [as heard] The functioning ones are quickly becoming inoperative. Russia is keeping the functioning of the cosmodrome at the very lowest level, not wishing to finance out of its own pocket the property of another nation.

Theft at the launching pads and the technical sites has become normal and is not noticed. Everything is stolen, even copper cable laid underground or sheet metal which is used for roofing. This chaos is beginning to tell, very unfortunately, on the dependability of the launchings. In June, the heavy carrier rocket Proton, carrying the communications satellite Gorizont, fell into the Pacific Ocean. Why? Because they didn't fill enough fuel into the tanks. I have a feeling someone must have stolen some of it.

The launching complex of the Proton—the most reliable Russian rocket—became so broken down and dilapidated that the rocket was moved to another pad. An hour before the Russian-French crew launching, the electricity failed at the pad, but after the launching, the whole town was blacked out.

People are leaving the place en masse. There are two and half thousand officer vacancies. Schools have become half deserted. Kindergartens are closed. Crime, drug addiction, robberies, theft are all commonplace. Women, even in daytime, are afraid to go out. They go swimming accompanied by large dogs.

And here's the latest: soldier rebellions. In June, these rebellions resulted in burning down three barracks, three staff buildings, a club, a hospital, and a library.

The only way out is to try and use our great space facilities for commercial purposes by launching foreign satellites, but that will not be easy to bring about.

Defense Firm Official Views Industry

PM0809113193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Sep 93 p 4

[Interview with Academician Boris Bunkin, "Almaz" Science and Production Association general designer and president of the "ROS" Company, by Valentin Rudenko; place and date not given: "'Almaz' Is Minting Money for Missiles. Financing Combat Hardware Production Is a Tough Nut To Crack, But It Can Be Cracked If We Pool the Efforts of Defense Firms, Banks, and Investment Companies and Funds"]

[Text] The idea of financial-industrial groups which KRASNAYA ZVEZDA talked about on its "Defense Complex" page 31 July this year is becoming increasingly popular in Russia's industrial and business circles. Life itself convinces us that retaining the capability to produce unique weapons systems and other goods that are in demand on the world market, thus at least instilling in people some sort of certainty about what tomorrow will bring, is only possible by combining the efforts of defense firms, banks, investment funds, and various financial structures. Even though the appropriate normative-legal base has not yet been established in the country for this sort of association, many enterprises have even now embarked on the formation of powerful financial-industrial groups as an initiative. These include the "Almaz" Science and Production Association, which is the force behind the establishment of the "ROS" (Missile Defense Systems) joint-stock company.

The world-renowned "Almaz" firm has the kind of scientific and production potential that is perfectly able to stay afloat on its own in the raging sea of the Russian economy. So what has prompted it to set up joint-stock company? This was the first question our correspondent put to Boris Bunkin, general designer at the "Almaz" Science and Production Association and president of the "ROS" Company.

[Bunkin] Primarily the sharp, not to say across-the-board reduction in defense orders, which are currently just 20 percent of the former level. Even this 20 percent is certainly not always supported by timely finance. A situation is developing in which defense orders are becoming simply uneconomic for many enterprises. And unless measures are taken, cooperation that has lasted decades could fall apart in the very near future.

The second and possibly main reason for our association was our desire to get into the world arms market as quickly as possible. In particular, we wanted to export our new S-300PMU1 antiaircraft missile system and thus earn money that we can pump into production development, research and development, and the implementation of conversion programs.

We have no doubt that we have chosen the correct course. I am convinced that the future of the Russian economy lies in financial-industrial groups which will be formed on the principles of voluntary and informal participation by industrial and financial structures. Let me immediately stipulate, however, that so far we have only taken the first steps in this direction.

Besides the 'Almaz' Science and Production Association, our company includes the 'Fakel' machine-building design bureau and a number of plants in Moscow, St. Petersburg, Novosibirsk, and Nizhniy Novgorod... A special place in our company is reserved for 'INKOMBANK,' the Central Industrial Investment Check Fund, the 'Spetsvneshtekhnika' State Foreign Economic Commission, the All-Russia 'Oboroneksport' Association, and other structures without which the success of our activities would not be possible.

[Rudenko] It is hard not to agree with you about this. It is no secret to anybody that the biggest issue facing defense enterprises is finance. In conditions of severe economic slump, a shortage of defense funds, and a poorly thought-out and sometimes downright crushing taxation policy, certainly not all of them will be able to successfully resolve this issue.

[Bunkin] And it would have been difficult for us as well if reliable financial partners, primarily "INKOMBANK," had not joined our company. We chose "INKOMBANK" quite deliberately. Practical experience shows that in the period of transition to market relations it is commercial banks that have the biggest resources for initial financial support and the broadest experience of work with completely different partners, both private entrepreneurs and major state associations.

Another important consideration was the fact that "INKOMBANK" has a very high rating, pursues a socially oriented financial policy, does a lot to establish industry and develop enterprise, and does not just care about its current profits.

[Rudenko] Do you have to use the services of any other financial structures?

[Bunkin] Of course we do. Even such a major bank is in no position to put up all the money for big contracts. We need to attract additional funds. Preferably not just in the form of loans but also in the form of investments. Having considered our potential, we set up the Central Industrial Investment Check Fund in conjunction with "INKOMBANK." We are hoping that our own workers, engineers, designers, and also servicemen will become the main shareholders in this fund. When we calculated how many vouchers there were for defense plants and design bureaus, we arrived at a very big sum. Many people prefer to invest their vouchers in their own enterprise, not in some nameless fund.

Right now the defense industry is entering what I would call a crucial—even critical—phase in which the plants have to be floated. In line with the presidential edict, flotation is intended to be primarily open. This means that all structures and private individuals will have access to the process. You can understand that we are certainly not indifferent to who will own the main funds. Where are the guarantees that they will not fall into the hands of scoundrels? If just one small enterprise left the fold, it would represent a breach in the technological chain.

We hope that the fund will enable us to keep operators from shady structures away from our property. We want to conduct matters in such a way that flotation goes hand in hand with a choice of partners who know each other well, who trust each other, and who think alike on all the main questions.

[Rudenko] One of the financial-industrial groups' priority tasks is to carve out a strong position in the world market. How are things shaping up on progress toward exporting the S-300PMU1 antiaircraft missile system—your main trump card on this front?

[Bunkin] Following the demonstration of the system's combat capabilities in Abu Dhabi, where even Western specialists acknowledged its superiority over the U.S. "Patriot" system, a number of countries wanted to buy the S-300PMU1 for their air defense forces. Talks about this are currently in progress. A number of contracts have already been outlined as well. But in order to seal them we again need money. A lot of money. It looks unlikely that we will get this money through state channels. And it is only thanks to "INKOMBANK," the Central Industrial Fund, the "Spetsvneshtekhnika" State Foreign Economic Commission, and the All-Russia "Oboroneksport" Association that we will hopefully be able to resolve the question of financing contracts to our satisfaction. Later on this will pay for itself 100 times over. And it will pay the fundholders as well.

[Rudenko] The arms trade is a profitable business. But it takes a long time to conclude a contract, manufacture weapons systems, and deliver them abroad. And shareholders want to get dividends as soon as possible, not at some time in the distant future.

[Bunkin] To enable this to happen as quickly as possible, the fund intends to pursue a two-tiered investment policy—the first stage involves investing funds primarily in conversion programs and sectors yielding a quick return. For example the lumber, timber, and chemical industries, etc. The second stage involves investing in science-intensive, high-tech defense production. Since professional financiers and defense industry representatives are getting directly involved in the management of the fund, a kind of investment institution is emerging which allows capital to be efficiently "transferred" from one sector to another and the best result to be obtained by doing so.

One other important detail—the fundholders will be workers from a certain group of industrial enterprises, which will create good preconditions for informal participation by these enterprises in joint activity with the bank and the fund with a view to generating big profits. By supporting the enterprise workers, the fund will thus basically be supporting the enterprises themselves. That is to say a kind of closed circle will be formed in which nobody loses out.

We hope that the shareholders of the Central Industrial Fund will include plenty of servicemen and members of their families. The fund plans to publish an advertisement in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA telling people how to exchange their privatization checks for shares.

[Rudenko] Returning to our talk about financial-industrial groups, what in your view is the most instructive thing for those who have embarked on the path of forming them?

[Bunkin] Undoubtedly the ability to work with financial structures. Without them a financial-industrial group is simply inconceivable. Only through the keenest and most active involvement in the company by banks, investment companies, investment funds, and insurance companies can we hope for a successful restoration of the former glory and importance of national defense firms, and ultimately of Russian industry as a whole.

Supreme Soviet

Khasbulatov Addresses Radio, TV Journalists

LD0809213193 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1940 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Address by Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov to Russian Television and Radio journalists in Moscow on 7 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Our life is rather complicated. You know as well as I do that our country, like some other countries, is going through a rather difficult time. Society is politicized. Of course, it would probably be silly to blame it on too much solar radiation, and it would be equally silly to blame it on the media, television etc., because the blame is rooted in objective reality.

This Pandora's Box which has opened all of a sudden has simply shown us what we had and what we have; it could not have shown us anything else. It's another matter that this impact—perhaps it was the extraordinary qualities and patience of our people, about which one can say a lot—that prevented an explosion from blasting to pieces, say, the Russian Federation. Moreover, it was a massive impact, a huge media impact, and, objectively, it had a destructive purpose in the final analysis. I reiterate, however, that it is hard to blame this on anyone, because clearly no specific individual had made it his goal to destroy anything, and so on.

There is a subjective side to this too. I can frankly tell you that I have as yet been unable to explain the nature of this phenomenon—I mean the situation when emancipated journalists, who now seem to be free from all pressures, have come back to their positions of several years ago when they praised our leaders despite being aware of their obvious faults; they turned them into idols, into deities. Moreover, they are demanding restoration of the same old order in fact, a return to the times of autocracy, and a dissolution of the representative power, which really is representative. [passage omitted]

Surely, it is not by destroying this representative power that democracy should be developed, but by other means. [passage omitted]

Replies to Journalists' Questions

LD0809221293

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1940 GMT on 8 September broadcast a 10-minute recording of the question and answer session which followed Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov's address to radio and television journalists in Moscow on 7 September.

An unidentified journalist asked Khasbulatov about his personal opinion about the work of the Russian Television and Radio Company, and then asked whether he heads a group of people irreconcilably opposed to President Yeltsin, or whether he is ready to reach a reasonable political compromise with him. The journalist concluded his question by asking Khasbulatov how he intends to use his position as Supreme Soviet chairman to influence the political situation.

Khasbulatov replied: "First, I have an undoubtedly positive attitude toward Russian TV and Radio Company television journalists. I think that I have shown this, demonstrated it. I simply want to remind you once more that I have never tried to play up to it. You know this. Second, you probably also know, although you don't always want to admit it, that I am very close in spirit to journalists. I myself have written in these years, no less than you." Khasbulatov adds: "Frankly, although I have sometimes been tough in my criticism, I have never spoken in the sense of: That's how it should be done. I am not trying to teach people what I do not know, just as I have always rejected teachers who tried to teach me what they do not know. I have always said, and I say it again now: Let us be objective in covering events. Most of my reproaches have consisted of what has already been said today—there is insufficient analysis in our country. And this applies to journalism, current affairs journalism, and television as well."

He continued: "I remember how even in our stagnation, or some other kind of years, some scientific authorities would discuss internal and foreign policy. I am not talking about the way they praised everything, complaining about the Americans, and ended by praising themselves, but the form itself was necessary."

On his attitude to Yeltsin, Khasbulatov said: "On the second question, it seems a little strange to me that among journalists like you there are people who seriously discuss issues of whether I have a reconcilable or irreconcilable attitude. Even the way the question is put seems strange to me. I think I have proved over three years that whoever it may be, I cannot, can never be called irreconcilable. Not under any circumstances. It is another matter that unfortunately these compromises which restrict divergence—in a number of instances, divergence from the Constitution—in the final analysis lead to disaster. This turns against society, so I firmly stand by the Constitution. Within the framework of the Constitution, any compromise is possible. Any compromise. Within the framework of the constitution. There."

Khasbulatov continued: "There is a procedure for changing laws. Don't you like the law? So let us introduce changes within the procedures laid down by the law. You know that I will be your first ally, and will take every opportunity somehow or other to see these changes through, both to laws and to the Constitution."

Khasbulatov reiterated that bypassing the law is a wrong way to act and concluded: "I would like to reiterate: Please do not class me with irreconcilable people. That would be wrong".

Answering a question on his personal attitude to live broadcasts of Supreme Soviet sessions, Khasbulatov said: "Since the first days of the Congress of People's Deputies I understood that this would not work, and we used every opportunity to avoid this. And now you see, our parliament also understands it quite well. I think there have been fewer of these broadcasts this year, literally just a handful of them". He agreed that live broadcasts do not present parliamentary deputies in a flattering light.

Replying to a question about what parliamentary television should provide, Khasbulatov said: "First, up to date information about the legislative activities of the Supreme Soviet, with a predominance of official information, with occasional addresses, infrequent addresses on commentaries. I must say bluntly, for example, that I am depressed that deputies are on it, one after the other. They are all here, and Yugin knows that I take a dim view of that. I say that a deputy, a federal deputy, has sufficient opportunities to appear and glitter on the screen of both Ostankino and Russian Television. Leave the deputies alone. It is easy for deputies to rush up and down there within a single building. What's the point?

"So television should concentrate its attention more on the legislative kitchen. That's the first point. Second, perhaps more details about official announcements and official positions. That's all."

The announcer concluded the unscheduled report abruptly by saying: "The chairman of parliament also answered other questions from the company's television and radio journalists."

Yeltsin Signs Law Amending Supreme Soviet Standing Orders

PM0709112793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Russian Federation Law No. 5476-1 signed by President Yeltsin 21 July 1993: "On Changes to Article 13 of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Standing Orders"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet decrees that:

Article 1. In Article 13 of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Standing Orders (VEDOMOSTI SYEZDA NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV RSFSR I VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA RSFSR) 1990, No. 26, Article 320, the words "not less than two-thirds" shall be replaced by "more than half."

Article 2. This law comes into effect from the day it is published.

[Signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin
Moscow, House of the Soviets of Russia
[Dated] 21 July 1993
No. 5476-1

Parliament Decision on Construction Troops Welcomed

PM0809130393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 7 Sep 93 p 3

[Vladimir Yermolin report under the "Events and Commentaries" rubric: "Parliament Extends Transitional Period for Special Construction Troops to End of Century"]

[Text] At last Friday's evening session the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet adopted a decree "On the

Procedure for the Reorganization of the Military Formation—the Federal Directorate of Special Construction under the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government."

Essentially, the document extends the deadline for the reorganization of the military formations of Special Construction Troops [Spetsstroy] (military construction workers) to 31 December 1999. I would recall under the existing legislation the transitional period for the reorganization of the Armed Forces runs until 31 December 1994. The decree also allows the conclusion of contracts for the performance of military service in the Russian Federation Spetsstroy—from 1 October this year.

Russian Federation People's Deputy Lieutenant General Aleksandr Voronin, who presented the draft decree to parliament, stressed in conversation with me the significance of this decision—it offers a clear long-term prospect for the solution not only of questions relating to construction but also the social protection of the special construction troops. The proposals submitted to the Supreme Soviet on the reorganization of the Spetsstroy specify in particular how many men will be discharged into the reserve and when, what housing provision will be made for them, and so forth. Lieutenant General Nikolay Abrosykin, deputy chief of the Russian Federation Spetsstroy, also spoke about that.

The significance and role of the military construction troops (it would be more accurate to call them Spetsstroy servicemen today) in our conditions, when the economy is experiencing a most profound crisis, are obvious to all—their labor is responsible for the construction of major facilities for the state defense order, the Defense Ministry, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service, and other departments and is connected primarily with the conversion of major enterprises. Without the Spetsstroy, construction projects in closed garrisons, especially housing construction, would clearly be frozen. The organization's production capacities make it possible to "hand over" 600,000 square meters of housing annually.

It can be said that the Spetsstroy, a substantial component of Russia's defense complex, has been spared from breakneck reorganization until the year 2000 and can continue its activity in a normal working regime.

However, there are still quite a few problems facing the Spetsstroy. One of them is the organization of the draft. In this regard the department is counting on help from the Russian Federation Defense Ministry.

Russia Unity Bloc Holds 'Open Session' 3 Sep

PM0809103993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Andrey Sharapov report: "Charades in the Kremlin Envelope"]

[Text] An open session of the "Russian Unity" opposition parliamentary bloc was held 3 September. Mikhail Astafyev cited two examples which, in his view, confirm the "president's inadequacies." The first concerns the edict relieving the vice president—who has the same source for his authority as the president (popular elections)—of his duties. The second is the clash with the law on changes to parliamentary standing orders, lowering the quorum for opening a session from two-thirds to 50 percent. When the Supreme Soviet opens an envelope carrying a letter from the president stating that he is vetoing a law adopted by parliament, there is nothing much to be surprised about, M. Astafyev said. But when the same envelope was found to contain a law already signed by the president there was general amazement.

The session discussed the constitutional amendments being drawn up at the decision of the National Salvation Front [NSF] Political Council. They boil down the creation of a political system similar to that of the FRG—the president would retain monitoring and representative functions, but the full force of executive authority would pass to the government, which would be answerable to parliament.

Ilya Konstantinov read out the NSF Political Council statement. It made a negative assessment of the idea of dividing up the Black Sea Fleet and defined the status of Sevastopol, which, in the opinion of the author of the statement, is a Russian city under federal jurisdiction. Gennadiy Sayenko drew the attention of those present to the strikes likely to occur in October-November, and called for active participation in support for them. It is obvious that they plan to make not just economic but primarily political demands.

Regional Affairs

Baturin Says 92 Representatives Ready To Sign Accord

LD0809170893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1359 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow September 8 TASS—As of Tuesday [7 September] morning, 92 representatives of subjects of the Russian Federation confirmed their intention to sign an agreement on the establishment of the Council of the Federation, Yuriy Baturin, aide to the Russian President Boris Yeltsin, told ITAR-TASS.

"We need to collect not so many additional votes to have 119 signatures of heads of regions and adopt the necessary decision by two thirds of 176 representatives of subjects of the Russian Federation," Yuriy Baturin noted.

He does not share standpoints of those politicians who believe that the setting up of the Council of the Federation is now under the threat of disruption. "It would be strange, he noted, if all regions within three days, all together, approved the establishment of the Council of the Federation. It is good that a normal process of discussing documents is going on."

Slow Response to Accord Examined

MK0909073693 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Sep 93 p 4

[Veronika Kutsyllo report under "Regions on the Federation Council" rubric: "Two-Thirds of the Regions Have Responded to the Draft Agreement"]

[Text] By yesterday the Russian president's administration had received responses to the draft agreement circulated 31 August to the regions on the idea of creating the Federation Council. Sixty-six regional heads of executive authority and 37 heads of regional representative authority supported the formation of the council, with partial qualifications. Therefore, the consent of two-thirds of the federation components required for the creation of the council has not yet been received. Nonetheless, the presidential administration is not inclined to dramatize the situation and attributes the silence by part of the regions to the Supreme Soviet's directives and to the fact that regional heads are busy with the ongoing fall agricultural field work.

The negative reaction to the draft agreement on the Federation Council's formation by many local soviet chairmen is apparently linked not so much to their definite position as to a 25 August letter sent to the regions by Supreme Soviet First Deputy Chairman Yuriy Voronin outlining to the heads of soviets the Russian parliament's proposed scheme of reaction to the draft. All the substantive criticisms of the draft agreement almost fully repeat the provisions of the Supreme Soviet's letter.

In particular, the heads of soviets believe that it is not desirable to reanimate the Federation Council, which the Supreme Soviet attempted to create in 1990 and 1991. On the other hand, even while agreeing to the idea of creating the council, some regional leaders are opposed to the president's being its chairman.

They propose that either the status of the president and Supreme Soviet chairman be balanced as equal cochairmen or that "outside leadership" be totally rejected and cochairs elected from among the council's members. In this event, however, the Federation Council could find itself without central financing and then, as Vyacheslav Volkov, deputy head of the Russian administration, told your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent, the regions will have to form the council by contributing their own resources. The draft's fourth provision, which many potential council participants regard as unacceptable, is the possibility of its dissolution as a result of the president's refusing to take part in its sessions.

In spite of the fact that some of Russia's republic leaders have so far not responded in any way to the draft agreement, the presidential administration's leadership does not think that the idea of creating the council is close to being buried. According to Vyacheslav Volkov, the presidential entourage will manage to dissuade regional heads who are too loyal to the Supreme Soviet. Serious hopes are also being pinned on a letter sent yesterday to Voronin on behalf of Chief of Administration Sergey Filatov requesting the Supreme Soviet to withdraw its "recommendations" to the regions.

In all likelihood, however, it will not be possible to create the Federation Council in the first half of September—prior to a joint session of the Constitutional Conference and the Constitutional Commission. Moreover, the session itself may now be in question—practically no local soviet has so far approved the draft new constitution. Yesterday, for instance, the Sverdlovsk Oblast Soviet resolved to deem both drafts (presidential and parliamentary) unacceptable since neither responds to the interests of the krays and oblasts—owing to the unequal legal status of the federation components.

Volskiy, Sobchak on Creating New Industrial Party

LD0809194093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1817 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomicheva]

[Text] St. Petersburg September 8 TASS—Arkadiy Volskiy, president of the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, held a new conference in St. Petersburg on Wednesday [8 September], saying that he was satisfied with the results of his visit to St. Petersburg. According to Volskiy, during meetings with representatives of industrial circles he discussed the question of the establishment of an industrial party which might take part in parliamentary elections.

The news conference was attended by St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak who said that "there is only one way out of the present political crisis: early elections which are inevitable in Russia." He said that the period of February-March 1994 was the nearest realistic time for holding the elections. However, Sobchak noted that the elections should be held with an interval of half a year. He pointed out that first, parliamentary elections should be held to be followed by elections to local councils in six-months time. Presidential elections and elections to all executive structures of power should be held in spring, 1995, Sobchak said.

He approved of the idea of creating the industrial party and any other strong constructive movement, saying that a multi-party principle should become a reality. Asked by journalists about his attitude to Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, Sobchak said that Rutskoy "is a political poacher, whereas poachers should not be encouraged."

In reply to the same question Volskiy refused to comment on Rutskoy's personality, adding that he does not approve of the vice-president's conduct.

St. Petersburg Seeks Additional Loan From Government

LD0909090793 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] The soft loan of 18.5 billion rubles, which the Russian Government extended to the city two months ago so that it could purchase and store vegetables, has been completely used up. City hall in St. Petersburg is now asking the government for another soft loan of 20 billion rubles for the same purpose. Maybe now it will be possible to procure sufficient supplies of potatoes, cabbages, and carrots for the winter.

North Ossetia Situation Reported Under Control

LD0809222393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1330 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, 8 Sep—The operational situation in the restricted zone of the state of emergency regime on the territory of North Ossetia remains complex, but it is fully controlled by the peace-keeping forces and the republic's local law-enforcement bodies.

Major General Aleksandr Khodov, secretary of the North Ossetian Security Council, gave this assessment of the situation in the region to an ITAR-TASS correspondent today. He reported that over the past 24 hours no local pockets of armed confrontation on an interethnic basis have been registered on the territory of the republic. However, military sources confirmed that during the night sporadic firing from automatic weapons took place in a number of settlements in Prigorodnyy rayon. There is no information on casualties.

Today Akhsarbek Galazov, the leader of North Ossetia, met Colonel General Aleksey Mityukhin, commander of the North Caucasian Military District forces, who is in Vladikavkaz now. Issues relating to the stabilization of the operational situation in the emergency situation zone on the territory of the republic were touched upon in the course of the conversation. The troops' commander introduced a new chief of the garrison—corps commander Major General Vladimir Kulakov—to the republic's leadership. At the same time he has been appointed the commander of the joint peace-keeping forces in the emergency situation zone on the territory of North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

Yeltsin Issues Decree on Development of Samara Oblast

LD0909090393 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Russia's president has signed a decree on state support measures for the socioeconomic development of Samara Oblast. The president's press service reports that the aim of the decree is to ensure the effective participation of the oblast administration in the administration of state property. In accordance with the document, a regional export quota is established for Samara oblast of up to 10 percent of the volume of goods produced on its territory, for goods exported on license.

Udmurt Leader Interviewed on Economy, Federation

PM0809133793 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 7 Sep 93 First Edition p 2

[Interview with Valentin Tubylov, chairman of the Udmurt Supreme Soviet, by Yelena Musatova; place and date not given: "Stop Goading People When Talking About Equal Rights"]

[Text] More than 70 ethnic groups live in harmony in Udmurtia. The republic is rich in timber and oil. It could exist without subsidies and feed itself. But the disorder in Russia has not left Udmurtia unscathed either. There are especially many problems here in industry, which had been geared until recently to the defense industry. A proper solution to these problems is being impeded by the inadequate economic autonomy of Federation components and the political struggle in the top echelons of power. Our correspondent discussed this with Valentin Tubylov, chairman of the Udmurt Supreme Soviet.

[Musatova] Valentin Kuzmich, what worries the republic's leadership most of all at the moment?

[Tubylov] Udmurtia's economic position. The breakdown in many economic ties on the territory of the former Union and the ill-considered policy of liberalizing prices have created loads of problems which cannot be solved overnight. Admittedly, industrial enterprises and the countryside alike are not expecting any handouts or subsidies and are gradually adapting to the new conditions. But this by no means applies to everybody. Privatization is proving particularly difficult. Although there are fewer problems with small enterprises, large defense enterprises—which often employ over 10,000 workers—are having to be dealt with separately.

It is urgently necessary to set up modern processing enterprises. This applies both to agriculture and to the processing of natural resources. The authorities are emphasizing support for commodity producers so as to be able to sell finished products rather than raw materials—this being far more profitable, as is well known.

[Musatova] Clearly, the support of the central authorities is important in this area too...

[Tubylov] You have touched on a sore point. Unfortunately, during the restructuring period nothing has changed at the Russian center, particularly in executive structures. Civil servants still have this stereotyped idea about the concentration of power. They have no funds or investment to distribute, but they are still used to issuing orders. This gives rise to all sorts of confusion. There is no hope of running things in the old way, but we just don't know how to do it in the new way.

It is as if the central ministries and departments have failed to notice the changes in the country. They are changing their functions painfully slowly, failing to improve their coordinating activity, and doing a poor job of introducing new concepts, and they sometimes forget about strategic state interests.

[Musatova] We must assume, Valentin Kuzmich, that the economic and political climate in Udmurtia will reflect the dissension in the top levels of power.

[Tubylov] That is indeed the case. The republic's Supreme Soviet and other power organs are bound to be affected by what is happening at the center. Whatever the subject under discussion—the principles of budget formation or the use of natural resources, not to mention the elaboration of the mechanism for the Federation Treaty—economic issues cannot be resolved without taking political issues into account.

It is all very simple: The rights and obligations of all parties—be they different branches of power or Federation components and the center—should be clearly laid out. To this end, incidentally, there should be no haste over the adoption of a new constitution. Reducing all the elaborations into a general document is a matter for the constitutional organs, and nobody else. In this connection the conference of republic leaders in Petrozavodsk deemed it expedient to pool the efforts of the Constitutional Commission and the Constitutional Conference.

After all, if a unified draft approved by our Supreme Soviet is submitted for examination to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet, deputies from Udmurtia are hardly likely to vote against it. This, I think, also applies to Russian parliament members from other regions.

[Musatova] Does this mean that elections should not be rushed either?

[Tubylov] I would say this. First we need to determine the basis on which they will be held. After all, the old law is obsolete, and there is still no new law in place. And whom should we vote for today? How can we have any clear-cut leaders if the parties themselves have not even been set up yet?

Moreover, it will take at least two or three months to nominate candidates and let them meet with the voters.

It is no use accusing the Russian Supreme Soviet of being ineffective. It has passed a lot of good and necessary laws, and is capable of adopting a constitution too.

As for the finalization of the draft constitution, the most complex issue here is the relationship between the center and the regions. The constitution should set everything out clearly. This also applies to the principles of state nationalities policy, which is basically nonexistent.

In my view, we should preserve the bicameral parliament, which represents the interests both of the republics and of the peoples living in them. In order to avoid any future conflict similar to the current conflict between president and parliament, the functions and powers of all branches of power should be clearly and specifically separated in the fundamental law.

I think that the role of each should be determined by its name—one, the legislature, should prepare the laws, while the other, the executive, should execute them. And, undoubtedly, the representative branch monitors the work of the executive organs.

[Musatova] In conclusion, Valentin Kuzmich, could you please say what you would like the central authorities to do.

[Tubylov] I would like them to coordinate their work for the good of all of Russia. Those politicians who are calling for the urgent dissolution of the Russian parliament and the immediate adoption of a hastily conceived draft constitution fail to realize that ignoring opinions at local level means cutting the regions off from the center and sowing discord instead of creating harmony.

Refugee Problem Contributing to Ingush Separatism

MK0909093093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 9 Sep 93 p 4

[Dmitriy Kamyshev report under "Rise of Separatism in Northern Caucasus" rubric: "The Ingushi Refuse To Obey Moscow"]

[Text] The accords on ensuring the return of refugees to their homes in Prigorodnyy rayon in Northern Ossetia reached during the previous rounds of the Ossetian-Ingush talks are still not being observed. Ingush President Ruslan Aushev arrived in Moscow late Tuesday [7 September] evening to take part in a Russian Security Council session to discuss this issue. The session was postponed, however, owing to a number of reasons. According to KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts, the delay in resolving the refugee problem is objectively contributing to a rise in separatist sentiments in Ingushetia.

Chechnya's independence proclamation has become the sole open manifestation of separatism in the Northern Caucasian region of Russia in the last few years. The Ossetian-Ingush conflict and the sharp aggravation of the situation that followed it, however, again recall this problem.

Practically none of the accords on the return of refugees, reached during the Ossetian-Ingush talks mediated by the Russian State Committee on Federation and Nationalities Issues, has been fulfilled so far. The decision to return refugees to four settlements in Prigorodnyy rayon in Northern Ossetia was the closest to being implemented, but that plan was scuttled following the assassination in early August of Interim Head of Administration Viktor Polyanichko.

At the same time, the refugee problem is the most important to Ingushetia from a political as well as economic point of view. Many of the more than 60,000 refugees simply may not survive yet another winter, especially since the republic is incapable of providing enough resources for their support. In this situation the Ingushi are particularly hurt by the fact that in spite of the statements by some representatives of the Russian leadership about taking tough measures against violators of the accords, no such measures have been taken yet with respect to Northern Ossetia (which, in the opinion of the Ingush side, is the main culprit breaching the agreements). This is being interpreted as the weakness of the central authorities, which breeds the idea of the advisability of parting with such a center. Therefore the secession of the Ingush republic from Russia, first announced by President Ruslan Aushev, is acquiring more realistic contours with every passing day.

So far Moscow is limiting itself to financial and humanitarian aid to refugees—which, in the Ingush president's opinion, is nowhere near what is required. Yet the question of returning to their homes has become the basic one for the Ingushi and, therefore, if Russia proves incapable of resolving this concrete problem, Ingushetia will try to address it itself. In KOMMERSANT-DAILY experts opinion, however, its secession from Russia and association with Chechnya will hardly give Ingushetia new possibilities for this, but the Ingushi may go to the end in their attempts to vindicate their independence.

Correspondents Report on Nizhniy Novgorod Arms Fair

LD0809172993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Report by correspondents Aleksandr Tsirulnikov and Georgiy Sakharov, including recorded remarks by Russian Deputy Prime Minister A.N. Shokhin; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A major international exhibition entitled Arms, Military Equipment, and Conversion opened in Nizhniy Novgorod today. Various firms from the defense industries sector are exhibiting consumer goods produced within the framework of conversion. However, arms still predominate at the exhibition. [Correspondent] This is the biggest exhibition of arms and conversion output put on by Russia and the CIS countries. Among the 300 participants of the fair in Nizhniy Novgorod are 130 defense enterprises, and 70 design and scientific research institutes, all of which were until recently closed facilities and were simply known by their Post Office box numbers.

Our defense industries, which employ six million people, are currently going through a difficult period. Conversion is a very costly endeavor: It requires $150 billion to convert to modern technological processes and produce consumer goods. It is possible to earn this sort of money only by selling military output.

However, in order to do this one needs to know how to conduct trade operations, and our defense industries have no such experience. The Nizhniy Novgorod fair ought to teach our defense industries experts how to make offers, how to display and advertise everything which foreign intelligence-gathering professionals so eagerly sought after for so many years, in order that Russian arms can come to enjoy the status they deserve in world trade, thus making it possible to retain the enterprises that boast unique skills in scientific, practical, and technical areas, to survive in market conditions, and to underpin the program of conversion from the economic point of view.

[Shokhin] Since the defense industry sector is one of the few sectors that lay golden eggs, everything must be done to ensure that it does not starve to death or is killed off by our moves which may not be completely successful or not always successful as far as economic policies are concerned.

International Affairs

Yeltsin-Kravchuk Summit Draws More Reaction

'Excerpt' From News Conference

AU0809172193 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 Sep 93 p 2

[Excerpt from the news conference held by Russian President B. Yeltsin and Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk in the Crimea after 3 September 1993 negotiations: "Ukraine Might Consider Selling a Certain Part of the Fleet...."]

[Text] [Question] Were the previous decisions concerning the Black Sea Fleet erroneous or correct? Have you done anything toward resolving this question?

[Yeltsin] We have embarked on a somewhat different road toward resolving this problem, which has been long outstanding. The previous decisions were correct for that time, but they did not produce the necessary result. They did not normalize the situation in the fleet. That is why this question was discussed today, and I am sure that the discussion will end in the following way: Ukraine will transfer its entire Black Sea Fleet to Russia. Russia will compensate for the cost of one-half of the Black Sea Fleet that belongs to Ukraine in accordance with previously adopted agreements. As regards the base, and in accordance with international rules, the base and what is necessary for the Russian Black Sea Fleet will also be used by Russia on the basis of agreements with towns, rayons, and settlements.

[Kravchuk] I also want to comment on this question. The two documents on the Black Sea Fleet that we signed earlier were dictated by time and place, and one should not discuss whether or not they were correct. They did not produce results because during the discussion and adoption of the documents, the real situation was not completely addressed; the opinion of the Black Sea Fleet was not considered, neither were the points of view of Sevastopol and the Crimea, but they [the Crimeans] will have to live here, work, and ensure their participation in these intricate and difficult procedures.

Our approach today went as follows: We divided the question into two parts—the fleet and the base. As concerns the fleet, after we reached the agreement, a mixed Ukrainian-Russian commission was created. It is made up of financiers and lawyers and will specify all aspects of the problem because it is a matter of the following: One half of the fleet is Ukrainian and one half is Russian. Ukraine **may consider the question** of selling a certain part of the fleet to Russia—a part yet to be determined. This is the first question. The second is the use of the Sevastopol base by the Russian fleet. The commission will also decide on this on the basis of existing international acts. After this (we set the deadline—September), the commission will complete its work, and we will ultimately resolve this problem.

[Question] Was the question of improving economic cooperation between Ukraine and Russia discussed? Was the question of the Ukrainian debt to Russia resolved?

[Yeltsin] We have not yet found a way out of the question of Ukraine's debt to Russia. This applies both to the debt of 1992 and to the debt of 1993, as well as to current settlements—so far, we have not found a solution to this problem. If we look at the problem with the Black Sea Fleet and if this question is tackled, Russian compensation for that part of the fleet that is to be transferred from Ukraine to Russia will be used to cancel Ukraine's debt. If it is less than the balance for that part of the fleet, Russia will pay the difference.

[Kravchuk] I confirm that after itemizing everything in the fleet and the base, their cost will also be determined according to international practice. If the cost is higher, Russia will pay and if it is lower—Ukraine will determine how much it must pay.

[Question] Did you, the two presidents, estimate approximately how much this farming out of the fleet will cost Russia or Ukraine? Have you definitely agreed on whether or not Russia is buying the fleet back?

[Yeltsin] We agreed that Russia is buying it and we, of course, know the full balance price of the Black Sea Fleet and how much one-half of it costs.

[Kravchuk] We only know this regarding the fleet. We do not have a complete knowledge of, at any rate I do not know the international principles, norms, and rules for using the base. Because, I reiterate, we have divided this into two parts: the problem of the fleet and the problem of the base.

[Yeltsin] In order to arrive at a common opinion of the sum, the joint commission was created. It will work in September and must, by the end of the month, produce the full estimate.

[Question] Were strategic nuclear weapons issues discussed?

[Yeltsin] Yes, and we have fully agreed on it: The premiers have signed a corresponding agreement.

[Kravchuk] Of the three questions that were discussed, the decision was reached on this particular one.

[Yeltsin] It must be said: Nuclear weapons and warheads will be dismantled and transferred to Russian territory with compensation for the uranium contained in these warheads: Russian uranium, though not enriched, will be supplied for atomic electric power plants—with a delay of one year.

[Question] Will the tactical nuclear weapons withdrawn in June 1992 also be returned to Ukraine in this way?

[Yeltsin] We did not discuss this.

[Kravchuk] How can they be returned to Ukraine if they have already been dismantled?

[Yeltsin] Completely destroyed....

[Question] Leonid Makarovych, I am talking of compensation.

[Kravchuk] You say compensation. Ministers have been authorized to study this question. We raised this question as a goal only, but have not signed any document.

I also want to add: In addition to warheads, we also have missiles, and we have fuel. We discussed this question with Boris Nikolayevich also earlier and there was a conversation with the U.S. president: We will ask and negotiate for assistance in dismantling and destroying not just warheads alone, because they are only a part of this great problem. However, we will negotiate this separately. For us, such a problem exists.

Reaction to 'Political Deal'

PM0809125193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Journalist Irina Pogodina article: "The Fleet's Exchange for Oil Is a Political Deal"]

[Text] Kiev—The exchange of energy sources for the Black Sea Fleet, carried out by Presidents B. Yeltsin and L. Kravchuk, was a test of the ability of Ukraine's political circles to combine the country's interests and the forms of their protection against the power structures and the persons appointed today to look after these interests.

Kravchuk's most devoted supporters in the Congress of National Democratic Forces of Ukraine, who recognize no union with Russia and who persistently persecuted Premier L. Kuchma for his signature on the "statement of the three," have ended up in the most complex position. Right up until the Yalta meeting they were calling the president the only consistent and sincere defender of Ukraine's independence.

The fleet's "surrender" precisely by Leonid Makarovich [Kravchuk] shocked them, and as early as Friday, commenting on Ukrainian television on Kravchuk's interview on his return from Crimea, D. Pavlychko, chairman of the parliamentary Commission for Foreign Affairs, admitted that he will now find it hard to champion the president's line.

The Ukrainian Republican Party—one of the founders of the Congress of National Democratic Forces—which in the past issued a memorandum condemning any Ukrainian intention to join a multilateral economic union under Russia's auspices, has now issued a statement which reads: No official, including the president, has the right to sign treaties which encroach upon the country's territorial integrity and national security.

Calling the president's position at the talks "traitorous," the Ukrainian People's Movement headed by V. Chernovil, which is most strongly opposed to the president, has blamed the Kuchma government—into opposition to which the party moved even at the end of the summer—for the economic situation which had taken shape by the time of the summit meeting.

At the same time the left-wing parties—socialists and communists—which have always called openly for Ukraine to return to the union in one form or another, have not voiced their approval for President Kravchuk, although he acted according to their program, as it were.

All this demonstrates that the Ukrainian president has once again won the internal political game by destroying the political and public forces in opposition to his power which had been on the point of starting to get their act together. At the same time Kravchuk maintained at the 6 September news conference that the question of selling the fleet has not yet been resolved and will not be resolved if the Supreme Council finds this impossible. But since the president himself sees no other way to provide Ukraine with energy sources, particularly on the threshold of winter, and also has not expressed hope that the Cabinet of Ministers will find a way to clear the debts, he has thereby confirmed that Ukraine has no way other than to sell the fleet. It can be assumed that Kravchuk is not too apprehensive of the parliament's obstinacy on this issue, because parliament's own fate is to be decided very soon by the scheduling of early elections.

At the same time the opinion is forming among independent observers not absorbed by the power struggle that the presidential trade-off ["cheyndzh"] is not of an economic nature at all. The risk of oil and gas blackmail at any moment, as soon as Russia needs something else from Ukraine, is not reduced for it. In Russia ownership of the fleet does not resolve the problem of developing the oil and gas sector. In general, it seems possible to make such an exchange only given the creation of not just an economic but a military-political union, since the sides' military and territorial interests are affected here. The fact that Yeltsin and Kravchuk, at the same time as resolving their internal political problems, are moving toward just such a union is being understood increasingly clearly in Ukraine.

Rukh Leader on 'Shameful Policy'

LD0809173093 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1420 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev, 8 Sep—"The outcome of the talks between Ukraine and Russia in the Crimea—this is the shameful policy of our diplomacy," stressed Vyacheslav Chornovil, chairman of the Ukraine People's Movement [Rukh] at a news conference. He emphasized that Rukh's stance regarding this meeting is unchanged. "It is hard to believe that this is a preliminary accord," the Rukh chairman noted, "for the Black Sea Fleet has ended up entirely in Russia's hands, and no representatives from

Ukraine are allowed in there." He called the Supreme Council the sole guarantor of Ukraine's independence.

Vyacheslav Chornovil reported that Rukh will speak in favor of the resignation of Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma, and in favor of new elections to the Supreme Council to be held at the same time as a referendum on confidence in the president. If the Supreme Council does not adopt a decision on new elections, a social explosion is inevitable, Mr. Chornovil believes. He reported that Supreme Council Chairman Ivan Plyushch evaluates the outcome of the talks in Yalta negatively, just as he is deeply disappointed in the actions of Leonid Kuchma. Regarding impeachment of the president, the chairman of the Supreme Council believes that this is as yet premature.

Considering 8 September a day of solidarity with journalists, Mr. Chornovil stated that censorship has been introduced into Ukraine's mass media—broadcasts containing appearances by representatives from democratic circles are groundlessly taken off the air.

Russian-Ukrainian Strains Boost Rukh

PM0809131993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 8 Sep 93 First Edition p 1

[Correspondent Vitaliy Panov article: "Tactics Are Not of Least Importance"]

[Text] Kiev—It seems that Yeltsin's meetings with Kravchuk are increasingly turning into a tussle between bear and fox. The formidable master of the taiga would have resolved his own problems long ago if he had caught his rival, but that is not happening. Yeltsin, after all, almost always gives a briefing on the results of such meetings, while Kravchuk either keeps quiet or says something from which it is downright impossible to draw definite conclusions. On the other hand, subsequently, back in Kiev, when he comes under critical fire from the opposition, he does usually play his trump card—I didn't say that, it was the Russian president. Something akin is happening this time, too.

Immediately after the speech on Russian television by Yeltsin, who very much needs a major foreign policy success right now, Ukrainian Defense Minister Konstantin Morozov and President Kravchuk himself seriously questioned at their latest press conference the possibility of Ukraine's selling Russia its part of the Black Sea Fleet or leasing Sevastopol out. All that was involved, according to the Ukrainian side, was setting up commissions to study the question. The final decision has to be made by parliament.

I think that the Russian diplomatic service is unable to grasp the specific features of Ukrainian diplomatic thinking or to recognize the obvious fact that it is dealing in Kiev with a patently oriental rather than Byzantine way of doing business, where nonagreements betoken more than agreements. Were Yeltsin to say something evasive and vague on the results of the talks, then it is perfectly feasible that one month later Russia would obtain the whole of the Black Sea Fleet. Moreover, no one would get restive in Ukraine. Here they often value **how** something is done rather than **what** is done.

Immediate and, in my opinion, somewhat hasty "results" raise a whole storm in Ukraine, putting Kravchuk in a really awkward position.

Whereas until quite recently when Kravchuk spoke about the fact that Rukh was virtually nonexistent he was not wide of the mark, it is now a different matter. It is dramatically building up momentum on the wave of Russian-Ukrainian conflicts, and its chairman, Vyacheslav Chornovil, has again become one of the central figures of Ukrainian political life. Rukh [Ukraine People's Movement] is becoming louder and louder in its call for the creation of armed self-defense detachments, various kinds of salvation committees, and the deportation of some of the Russian and Russian-speaking population.

Speaking on Lvov television, Chornovil described the agreement on economic union and the fate of nuclear missiles as "an act of national betrayal" by Kravchuk. Gearing himself up for the presidential election, the Rukh chairman clearly intends with the help of the Russian-Ukrainian disagrements consistently to chop off all the branches of Ukrainian state power, on which, incidentally, his main political rivals are perched. He is now operating on the principle that the worse it gets the better so that the savior of the fatherland may appear at the right time.

Rukh is doing everything it can so as even to switch strike action in a direction that benefits it, and while the miners are clearly not falling for the bait, knowing perfectly well that Viktor Pinzenik, who recently quit the post of vice premier, is Rukh's candidate for the premiership, the workers of the Nikolayev Railroad Depot would seem to have been won over, and this fairly private matter was, no matter how strange it may seem, hyped up by the mass media.

Incidentally, western Ukraine is ready to strike right now. Fortunately, the contribution made to the economy of the state as a whole by that region's industry is pretty modest and localized.

However, it does seem that Chornovil considers the main thing is to light the fire now, and then see what happens...

In short, Kravchuk is dealing in Ukraine today with a united opposition, whose trump card is his policy toward Russia, and much will depend precisely on how the Russian or Ukrainian plenipotentiaries act. Tactics in questions of this kind are not of least importance.

Republican Party Wants More Money

WS0809140493 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Report by Natalya Bondarchuk on press conference held by the Ukrainian Republican Party in Kiev on 7 September]

[Text] Oles Shevchenko, deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Republican Party [URP] and people's deputy, briefed journalists on two documents recently adopted in Cherkassy during a special URP Council session. These documents include the URP resolution and statement on the results of the recent negotiations with Russia in the Crimea. Oles Shevchenko explained his party's stance.

[Begin recording] We are saying that an agreement with Russia can only be reached when Russia compensates Ukraine not only for its half of the Black Sea Fleet, but also for Ukraine's portion, namely 16.37 percent, of the value of the entire fleet of the former USSR. Why should we only share in part of the Black Sea Fleet? Additionally, the Russian Navy and its all onshore units should be withdrawn from Ukrainian territory and territorial waters by a set date, no later than the end of 1994. If Russia accepts such terms, we have nothing against sitting at the negotiating table. One should not forget that Russia was able to seize and appropriate the assets of the former USSR. Russia forgets that Ukraine made a remarkable contribution to the development of the oil industry in Siberia and to the development of the entire energy system in the former USSR. They forget that Russia took unfair advantage of slave-like labor performed by millions of Ukrainian concentration camp prisoners. Finally, why is Russia, since it calls itself the heir to the former USSR, avoiding responsibility for what the USSR and Moscow empire did to Ukraine? First, let Russia pay its debt for our 8 million citizens innocently exterminated during the artificially induced famine before we divide the Black Sea Fleet and pay off Ukraine's debts. [end recording]

Opposition to Fleet Deal Viewed

PM0909084593 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Sep 93 p 3

[Anatoliy Stasovskiy report: "Will Kravchuk Go Back On His Word? Opposition Forces in Ukraine Are Encouraging Him To"]

[Text] At a time when Moscow is actually maintaining an enviable calm, Kiev is being rent by contradictions fueled by the political disagreements—if one could use this expression—reached at the recent summit meeting between Russia and Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk stated at a press conference that he and the Russian Federation president had not signed any documents in Massandra about selling part of the Black Sea Fleet. Following the Crimea meeting with Boris Yeltsin, the Ukrainian leader's across-the-board backtracking has been obvious even to the uninitiated. Looking at the big picture, it is possible to understand Leonid Makarovich. It has been a long time since there has been such a sudden attack on the president and his immediate entourage from the republic's political forces (a considerable proportion of the Supreme Council, the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists, the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, and the Ukraine People's Movement [Rukh]). It is now hard even to determine which of the political opponents will be the most scathing. At any rate, Rukh (with Vyacheslav Chernovil as one of its leaders), the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists (leader Slava Stetsko), and the "Narodna Rada" national-democratic faction of the Ukrainian parliament (chairman Ivan Zayets) have accused their president of treachery and have decisively called for his resignation. Anyone with a real knowledge of the relative standing of political forces in the state, who realizes what direction the wind is blowing and who values his job, simply cannot fail to be alarmed in this situation. And that is putting it mildly. We realize that Leonid Kravchuk is not one of those politicians who do not know what they are doing and cannot guess what is being done behind their backs. Of course, he has come in for scathing attacks from both the opposition and from those who had mostly supported their president until recently. He has probably also been attacked because, following the Massandra meeting, the atmosphere in Ukraine's western oblasts has been exceptionally charged. A spark would be enough to set it off.

Leaflets have appeared all over the city of Lvov with very specific assessments of the situation. One of them was entitled "Ukraine on the Warpath." A crowd of at least 2,000 witnessed the burning of the Russian tricolor on the city's main avenue near the opera theater.

I think that the Ukrainian president and government cannot fail to be alarmed by the sharp politicization of the republic's Army. Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov, Ukraine's defense minister, has been acting for the umpteenth time—as KRASNAYA ZVEZDA already reported in its 7 September issue—as an autonomous politician independent of the line pursued by the president. With the blessing of the Ukrainian military minister, the Union of Ukrainian Naval Officers has demanded that all agreements on the Black Sea Fleet be denounced, and that all foreign ships and other subunits be withdrawn from the country's territory by late September 1993. The Ukrainian officers (primarily the most political among them, including members of the Officers Union of Ukraine) called in their appeal for the republic's citizens to oppose the creation of "foreign bridgeheads on Ukrainian soil" and for the immediate adoption of a law banning Ukrainian citizens from serving in any foreign formation without the permission of the UN Security Council. The appeal notes that Ukraine is entitled to 16 percent of the entire navy of the former USSR—which is twice the size of the Black Sea Fleet—and should not agree to compensation for one-half of the latter.

In this tense situation, Ukraine has to all intents and purposes been inundated with statements by Black Sea Fleet officers who had initially supported the Russian and Ukrainian presidents' decision. According to a report from the Black Sea Fleet Press Center, similar statements have been issued by the Coordinating Council of Black Sea Fleet Officers' Assemblies, officers from the fleet's ASW division, officers from the Black Sea Fleet marines brigade...

Leonid Kravchuk is clearly already trying not to remember the words he twice said in the Crimea—that he would be personally satisfied if the problems of the fleet and the people of the Crimea were regulated. After all, we will leave, but they have to stay here and live, the Ukrainian president said. Of course, even if the Black Sea Fleet becomes Russian—something that specialists increasingly doubt—it will not be easy for Russia to maintain it. But an unconstructive attitude has already been and will continue to be far more costly for the two states' peoples. As the Black Sea Fleet officers stated in their appeal to the Russian and Ukrainian presidents, "we have had enough of seeing our enemies satisfied. Our dissension, economic difficulties, and the collapse of the fleet are music to their ears."

Nationalists Attack Deal

MK0909083593 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 93 p 3

[Vladimir Skachko report: "Some Talk Politics, Others Are Ready To Take Up Arms. Comments on Ukrainian-Russian Talks Continue"]

[Text] The end of last week and the beginning of this week have passed to the accompaniment of diverse commentaries on the results of the Ukrainian-Russian talks in Massandra. Following President Leonid Kravchuk's lead, virtually all notable political parties, public organizations, and some Ukrainian politicians have given news conferences or made statements about the occasion.

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Tarasyuk, chairman of the National Committee for Disarmament Matters, who has a reputation for being a proponent of nuclear disarmament, said on Ukrainian radio that the results of the talks in Massandra should be viewed "only within the context of the general economic, military, and political situation in our country and in Russia." In his view, the current realities could not but affect the search for ways to resolve problems concerning the Black Sea Fleet, Ukrainian strategic nuclear weapons, and bilateral Ukrainian-Russian relations. Boris Tarasyuk echoed Leonid Kravchuk's view that the results of the Massandra talks are too complex to be perceived as a defeat for Ukraine because definitive decisions on selling the Ukrainian half of the fleet and its infrastructure were not signed. Boris Tarasyuk also said that Ukraine had its own option for settling the fleet problem that had been drawn up during the year by Ukraine's foreign and defense ministries and which Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov presented at the talks; Russia, however, rejected the document, although it proposed a stage-by-stage solution to the problem and was based on the earlier Yalta agreement.

"I believe that it is too early to discard ideas and alternatives existing today. The two countries' experts are in for very complex, serious, and intense negotiations. Any turn of events can be expected for the fleet, but I am certain that the fleet's command and personnel will have enough sense not to aggravate the situation and to keep it under control pending a political solution that should ensure the interests of both sides," Tarasyuk concluded.

Despite the explanatory efforts, different voices are increasingly heard. At its press conference, the Ukrainian Republican Party read out the party council's statement saying that if Ukraine's statehood and territory are compromised, the party will "make use of its constitutional right to call on Ukrainian citizens to defend their state's territorial integrity and national security by all means available, including the use of arms."

The extreme nationalist Ukrainian National Assembly (UNA) also declared that "from now on the Crimean issue can only be resolved by military means." It is hard to say how serious these threats are, but it is evident that this creates an appropriate public mood that may tip the balance when parliament considers the documents concerning the Black Sea Fleet and Ukrainian nuclear arms. One should not forget that fighters of the Ukrainian People's Self- Defense, an organization close to the UNA, already fought against Russian interests in the Dniester and Georgian-Abkhazian conflicts.

Kravchuk Discusses Russian Energy Supplies

LD0809182093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Petrunya for TASS]

[Text] Kiev September 8 TASS—Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk met on Wednesday [8 September] with president of the Nordex Group Holding AG Company Grigoriy Luchanskiy.

The company has suggested a project of its participation in the solution of the problem of energy supplies from Russia to Ukraine and deliveries of goods from Ukraine to Russia.

Upon completion of the meeting, Luchanskiy said that the project was approved by the Ukrainian president. The Ukrainian president instructed Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma to hold talks on this issue with the head of the Russian Government.

According to Luchanskiy, the realization of this project, envisaging the involvement of foreign creditors and the operation of the company's offices in CIS countries opens good prospects for Ukraine, Russia and the company itself.

Luchanskiy said that one of the directions of the project was a prospect of food supplies from Ukraine to Russia's oil developing regions.

Kuchma Leaves for Moscow Talks on Energy

WS0809120993 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma has left on a one-day working visit to Moscow. During a meeting with Russian Federation Government officials, he will discuss the issue of supplying Ukraine with energy sources.

Russia Accused of Luring Country's Army Specialists

AU0809181393 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 Sep 93 p 2

[Report by Mykhaylo Vasylashko, HOLOS UKRAYINY special correspondent in Vinnytsya Oblast: "Strategic Missiles Are Being Withdrawn to Russia, or Who Is Master in Our Home?"]

[Text] Ukraine's Supreme Council first proclaimed nuclear-free status and then nationalized all nuclear forces located in Ukraine. The U.S.-led nuclear powers, after coming to their senses following such a surprise, began to put pressure on Ukraine to force it to speed up the ratification of the reduction of strategic nuclear forces treaty [START].

While deputies are busy debating in their commissions, the Western states' intentions began to materialize under Russian sails. Even before Mr. Morozov's trip to the United States, a rocket army in Vinnytsya was ordered by Moscow to reduce the level of combat readiness in the Army and follow a schedule for removing from duty the main parts and missiles of two regiments and withdrawing these parts to the territory of Russia.

Recently, the first cargo was dispatched from Podillya. It was followed by the best specialists from among the officers corps.

Since then—quick privatization of housing, fictitious divorces, and so on. For its part, Russia has been encouraging this migration process by immediately providing the officers with housing at their new place of work and with salaries ten times as high as they received in Ukraine, and so on. Everything is being done to discredit Ukraine's ability to maintain its own armed forces. As a result, one of the missile-operating officers ironically said at a meeting in the Podillya office of HOLOS UKRAYINY: "If Italy paid us that much, we would not decline the offer!"

This is the kind of army we have and these are orders in it. It is true, though, that Ukraine's Ministry of Defense seems to have its own structure—a center for administrative control of strategic forces. However, its representatives only visited Podillya once. An video recorded excursion is not needed to understand everything that is going on here, but meticulous everyday work carried out jointly with law-enforcement organs. However, after the army counterintelligence was removed from the territorial jurisdiction of Ukraine's Security Service Administration, army generals began, as before, to retouch the information. Who is the enemy? They do as they are told by those who pay more. Russia pays more today. With transfers, positions, reserves, apartments, and so on—even with vouchers!

In my opinion, the Ukrainian parliament should take an impartial view of how strangers play the master on its own turf!

Briefing Held on Ukrainian-U.S. Negotiations

LD0809114193 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] A briefing for Ukrainian and foreign journalists was held today [7 September] at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Among issues discussed during the briefing, there was information delivered by the chief of the Department of Control Over Armament and Disarmament at the Foreign Ministry, Kostyantyn Hryshchenko. He told about the results of the negotiations with the delegation of the United States which took place on 30 and 31 August in Kiev.

Considered during the negotiations were conditions for providing financial assistance by the United States to Ukraine so that it will be able to carry out a program for the reduction of the strategic offensive weapons. Other issues considered during the negotiations included the creation of an inter-governmental communication [as heard], rendering assistance to Ukraine and establishing control over exports in developing a system of registration control and physical protection of nuclear materials and so on.

Mr. Hryshchenko said that the positions of both sides were clarified during the negotiations. The negotiating sides have to settle one more important issue which consists in determining the volume of the American assistance in the dismantling of missiles, in particular the neutralization of the liquid fuel for those missiles. Kostyantyn Hryshchenko said the following about the position of the Ukrainian sides.

[Hryshchenko, in Ukrainian fading into English report] During the negotiations, the Ukrainian delegation proceeded from the fact that financial assistance is of primary importance, Kostyantyn Hryshchenko is saying. We have many efficient domestic technologies which we could use. Unfortunately, under the current economic and financial situation in Ukraine it is next to impossible to find enough money for their practical implementation, but according to the Nunn-Lugar amendment, the means are allocated by the Pentagon only for those programs which employ American technologies and American experts, so the work to find a final settlement to this issue continues.

During the negotiations, the American delegation confirmed that $175 million reserved for the program for this fiscal year is just a beginning. The Americans intend to increase this assistance next year at the expense of new allocations provided by the Pentagon.

[Announcer] Journalists present at the briefing were also interested in the recent summit meeting of the presidents of Russia and Ukraine which took place in Crimea. In particular, they asked whether Russia paid for the tactical nuclear weapons transported by Ukraine to Russia during 1992. The answer of Mr. Hryshchenko was as follows.

[Hryshchenko,in Ukrainian fading into English report] The destiny of the tactical nuclear weapons which were transported to Russia was one of the chief issues discussed during the summit meeting. The Russian side refused to provide any information on this issue. They said that now when all the tactical weapons are outside the territory of Ukraine, no additional discussion is needed but the Ukrainian side was persistent and an agreement was reached with the Russians that this issue will be considered in the future.

Under a new agreement reached by Russia and Ukraine in Crimea, Ukrainian nuclear warheads will be dismantled in Russia and then unconcentrated uranium from those warheads will be returned to Ukraine to be used as fuel at its nuclear power stations.

Vice Prime Minister Meets With U.S. Envoy

WS0809131193 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Mykola Zhulynskyy has met with U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Ukraine Shaun Byrnes. During the meeting, economic reform, reorganization of education, health care, and welfare were discussed. The charge d'affaires paid special attention to the press, television, and human rights.

40 Tanks Sold to Azerbaijan, 9 Delivered

LD0809134893 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1330 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] The Ukraine has sold Azerbaijan 40 tanks, nine of which have already been delivered to the republic. The tanks are delivered to Baku by Ruslan planes in strictest secrecy.

Economic Cooperation Stressed in Talks With PRC

WS0909075193 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Report by Ihor Bak]

[Text] In the course of meetings between Ukrainian and Chinese officials in Kiev, both sides have expressed interest in strengthening and developing mutually advantageous cooperation between Ukraine and the PRC, primarily in the field of economics. Ukraine is ready to assist China in modernizing its metallurgical complexes, many of which were originally built with the aid of Ukrainian specialists. Our state can develop fruitful contacts with China in the areas of coal mining, aircraft production, and shipbuilding. Ukraine is interested in exporting steel, cast iron, prefabricated metal products, metal-processing machines, and other products to the PRC. The Chinese delegation proposed forming a joint intergovernmental committee to examine the most promising ways of developing bilateral relations.

In the course of the visit to Kiev, Qian Qichen, vice premier of the State Council and minister of foreign affairs, spoke of the economic reforms carried out in his country. He pointed out that due to these reforms, China has entered a stage of dynamic economic development, enhancing its industrial output and moving the country into 11th position in the world with regard to the balance of exports and imports. Qian Qichen expressed his belief that Ukraine may become one of the most developed nations in the world if it manages to realize its full potential.

A wide range of issues of mutual concern was discussed during the visit. Qian Qichen, in particular, pointed out that China supports Ukraine's position on control of Sevastopol, the Crimea, and the Black Sea Fleet, and that his country has already voiced its support in the United Nations. At a news conference held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qian Qichen stated that full understanding has been reached on a majority of issues discussed in Kiev.

National Affairs

Details of 7 Sep Explosion at Dneprodzerzhinsk Plant

LD0909080893 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Report by Gennadiy Klimov and Vladimir Shtengelov; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The blast at the seventh blast furnace of the Dneprovskiy Metallurgical Combine in Dneprodzerzhinsk took place yesterday [7 September]. You are looking at the charred remains. The blast took place as the furnace was nearing its operational capacity following an overhaul.

A government commission, headed by Deputy Ukrainian Prime Minister Vasiliy Yevtukhov, is investigating the causes of the accident. Eyewitness reports note that the blast had tremendous force. The accident is unparalleled as far as the metallurgical industry is concerned. The twisted remnants of the blast furnace were scattered for hundreds of meters. The blast furnace has practically ceased to exist.

However, the entire tragedy of what took place is to be found elsewhere: 27 metallurgical workers fell victim to the accident. Of these, three died on the spot while one died from burns at the hospital.

Accident and rescue work is continuing at the site. Doctors are fighting to save the lives of people burned by gas and metal. They have said that 10 people are in extremely serious condition. To save these people, hundreds of Dneprodzerzhinsk residents stood in line overnight to donate blood.

Ukraine's leading burns specialists are now working on site. Assistance has been forthcoming in the form of medicines. Some victims have been taken by the Dnepropetrovsk Burn Center.

As for the combine itself, production processes continue. Three blast furnaces continue to produce pig iron, while two are standing idle for the time being. [Video shows charred and twisted remains of metal constructions, people digging in ash, people in hospital with bandages, man climbing metal stairs with smoke rising nearby.]

Kiev Details Accident

WS0909091593 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] At 1415 [1115 GMT] on 7 September, while attempting to bring the seventh blast furnace at the Dneprodzerzhinsk Metallurgic Combine, named after Dzerzhinskiy [as heard], to normal operation, an explosion took place and 27 metallurgical workers fell victim. Three of the victims died and the rest were taken to the hospital for treatment.

On the eve of the tragedy, the seventh furnace, one of four in operation at the Dneprodzerzhinsk Combine, had been out of operation for two days because of a lack of raw materials; it was running in so-called idle mode. Beginning at 1000 on 7 September, workers started bringing it back up to normal operating capacity. Suddenly, the process was interrupted by the terrible accident. The causes of the explosion are being investigated; a government commission led by Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Yevtukhov is working at the combine.

Spokesman Denies Prime Minister Kuchma Offered To Resign

AU0909101993 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 8 Sep 93 p 3

[UKRINFORM-attributed statement by Dmytro Tabachnyk, press secretary of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers; date not given: "Has Not Resigned. Yet Another Time?"]

[Text] Regarding the ITAR-TASS report citing Ukrainian Independent Information Agency (UNIAN) to the effect that Ukraine's Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma allegedly offered to resign on Saturday, 4 September 1993, and that according to the agency, referring to well informed source among presidential circles, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk allegedly accepted the resignation, I can state that the aforementioned report does not correspond to the facts. On Saturday, the Ukrainian prime minister did not make any official statements regarding his resignation.

Kravchuk Speaks at Conference on Famine

LD0909094393 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Speech by President Kravchuk at an international scientific conference dedicated to the causes and consequences of the famine of 1932-1933 in Kiev—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] We who live in Ukraine do not lay any claim to being the masters of the world. We want to be and will be the masters of our own native land and do everything to prevent its pyramids of golden grain from turning into smoke and rotting away and to prevent the people from dying without a crust of bread.

Unfortunately, rumors are spreading even now about the so-called famine of 1993 and that famine in Ukraine is real. Tension is growing in society because of the fact that, indeed, a very large crop harvested this year notwithstanding, prices are rising.

I would like to say that the fact that prices are high is not a tragedy. The price of bread should correspond with how much bread costs. The trouble is that the new financial system is built in such a way that it does not always allow a person to live in a way that befits someone in a civilized society. Hence, it is not about the price of bread but about a person's opportunities to earn and get enough to buy bread and something to go with it. This is (?the meaning of it) and not that prices are high. Prices may be low but then it is the state that undertakes subsidizing. Alternatively, prices may be high and correspond with expenditure. In that case, a person should earn enough to live a normal life.

It is, indeed, true that there is a large crop. It is also true that there are problems. There always are and will be problems and we have to resolve them. It is quite obvious that the people cannot be made to bear the whole of the burden of the economic situation. Funds have to be found—and we will find them—to compensate people for their expenses in buying food. The food issue is to be dealt with urgently by all tiers of power.

Right now, people must have a firm belief that there are not any forces that will plan and operate a policy of economic pressure on the people. The people have to know and understand that.

Within a short time, we are to carry out radical reforms and achieve real results, because it is these alone that can demonstrate to Ukraine and the world our capability to realize ourselves as a civilized democratic European state. [passage omitted]

Kuchma on Economic, Political Situation

MK0809122693 Moscow MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian No. 37, 12 Sep 93 (Signed to Press 7 Sep) p A11

[Interview with Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma by MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI correspondent Sergey Tikhiy in Kiev "the day after the prime minister submitted yet another resignation application," under the "Leaders" rubric]

[Excerpts] Last October, when Leonid Kuchma became the head of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, many people breathed a sigh of relief. First, those who had pressed for Vitold Fokin's removal, and second, the unofficial parliamentary majority—former communists, apparatchiks, directors, and chairmen who considered Kuchma one of their own. Soon, however, many people felt disillusioned by him. Impeccable nationalistic patriots did because, while bending under circumstances, the prime minister constantly emphasized the inevitability of forging Ukraine's ties to the CIS. Those who had gotten accustomed during the previous year to thinking of themselves as citizens of a sovereign Ukraine began worrying about their prospects following the new cabinet's very first edicts. Nonetheless, though the government did not manage to do much and living conditions continued to plummet catastrophically, the premier's popularity kept growing until he reached the top of the all-Ukrainian approval rating by the beginning of the summer. [passage omitted]

[Tikhiy] What conditions do your need for your work?

[Kuchma] We need what all civilized countries have long realized: the parliamentary majority should appoint its government. This will make for a single team. The current lineup of the Ukrainian parliament has already played its historical role. Early elections are essential because this parliament will never attempt to restructure and it will not adopt any program at all—radical or conservative. Ukraine cannot ask for $5 billion in loans annually. We need to accept the closure of loss-making enterprises, and this entails unemployment. Only an absolutely new parliament and new government can attempt such drastic steps.

[Tikhiy] Then what is the use of the government program you have just made public?

[Kuchma] This is a tighter program in terms of the need to carry out economic reform and the number of issues it raises before the Supreme Council because the government has been effectively blocked since last May. Currently, there are around 60-70 bills and proposals of the Cabinet of Ministers "sitting" at the Supreme Council—from selling incomplete construction projects and land (this measure alone could fetch seven trillion karbovanets for the budget) to proposals for taxation policy and small-scale privatization.

[Tikhiy] In December or January you made specific forecasts, you even predicted when the inflation rate would come down to 4-5 percent a month...

[Kuchma] I do not want to have these words unsaid. I will ask you a simple, workers and peasants' question instead: If oil and gas prices shot up a thousandfold since January, tell me, can anything be done in a country like this?

[Tikhiy] Have other options for paying for Russian energy sources been considered apart from switching over to world prices early next year?

[Kuchma] I kept saying from the outset that the Ukrainian economy would not sustain world energy prices, nor would the Russian economy.

[Tikhiy] But in June you signed an agreement stipulating just this, did you not?

[Kuchma] I signed it when I no longer had any other choice.

[Tikhiy] What are you counting on now?

[Kuchma] On carrying out privatization at a higher pace, maybe even "by using force" —both small-scale privatization and the privatization of large enterprises. Frankly speaking, however, the crux of the matter—the trade deficit with Russia—has not been resolved. This takes time, which we are running out of. This also requires accord both in society and in parliament. This, too, is lacking. Some stand for an economic union, but others march on squares with flags and pay "compliments" to the prime minister. Unless we find a compromise political solution with Russia, there is no use expecting that an outside economic genius might offer a way out of the situation.

[Tikhiy] It seems that precisely this happened at talks in Crimea...

[Kuchma] We are late all the time. In May Ukraine did not have any debts; now we have both debts and the autumn just around the corner. At the expert level, there were entirely different proposals concerning the fleet. The Black Sea Fleet was to remain a single whole under a joint command, while Russian and Ukrainian fleets were to be set up on its basis.

As for nuclear weapons, the agreement reached on them was a good one. Unfortunately, the mass media are not quite accurately covering its content—so far it is the dismantlement of warheads from only 130 out of 176 missiles that is at issue, that is, those subject to cuts under START I, but they must be dismantled at any rate, even from the point of view of security. I say this as a specialist in missile technology. In addition, at the prime minister level there was talk about paying compensation for tactical missiles. The Russian side did not object.

[Tikhiy] Wasn't it you who said that Ukraine should assume the status of "a temporarily nuclear state"?

[Kuchma] What is under discussion is not whether Ukraine should be a nuclear power or not; the thing is that if we ratify the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, as provided for in the Lisbon protocol, we will not be considered a state owning nuclear arms. Had we first found a solution on compensation matters with Russia, I would have been the most ardent proponent of such a solution.

[Tikhiy] Isn't the economic union of the CIS Slavic states currently under discussion at odds with earlier agreements?

[Kuchma] No. Doors are open for others, too. We are perfectly aware that our market is made up of the countries of the former Union and COMECON. We are not welcome in other markets with our goods. Hence, within the economic community prices of energy resources must be equal for all. Only in this case can we make our goods competitive, be they Belarusian, Kazakhstani, or Uzbek. Then we should move toward duty-free trade with one another; that is, the way they trade in Europe. If some one does not like the term "union," any other name can be found...

[Tikhiy] However, is it not well-known that Russia has special lists limiting exports?

[Kuchma] Today Ukraine has in practice withdrawn all its lists, but Russia has not yet done so. Our goal is to achieve responsive steps.

[Tikhiy] Addressing the Ukrainian parliament in June, you said that Russia's stance vis-a-vis Ukraine cannot be called friendly.

[Kuchma] I have never said that this is Russia's stance. In Russia, there is a parliament on the one hand and a president and a government on the other. The decree on Sevastopol drew a storm of outrage. I do not, however, want to equate Russia with its parliament.

[Tikhiy] Leonid Danilovich, it is known that there are certain political forces in Russia and in Ukraine that see an economic union as the first step toward a closer political relationship. What guarantees does Ukraine have lest it be dragged into a new superstate?

[Kuchma] These guarantees should be incorporated in the treaty itself. Its draft has been prepared and it gives ground to believe that this will not happen.

[Tikhiy] Recently, the Ukrainian press has carried a lot of publications hinting at your complex relations with Leonid Kravchuk. Have you tried to sort out these relations? All the more so because public opinion polls in the past three to four months show you as the clear front-runner among Ukrainian politicians.

[Kuchma] I do not want to engage in politics. This is really a dirty business. As for the approval rating... Maybe people see the cabinet as the only institution in Ukraine trying to do at least something amid the general collapse of power. I do not see any other explanations. Besides, we are always trying to tell the truth, however bitter it might be.

[passage omitted]

[Tikhiy] Nonetheless you did not resign...

[Kuchma] I would have resigned, but according to our constitution a prime minister does not have the right to resign unless the Supreme Council votes for the resignation. What is the prime minister supposed to do if it keeps voting "against" this?

[passage omitted]

[Tikhiy] It is clear why you do not suit the parties of right wing and nationalistic hues, but when did you spoil your relations with directors?

[Kuchma] When I told them: "Guys, let us work a little bit for the state first and then for yourselves! Forget that in 1992 you were absolutely uncontrolled in your government jobs." A number of edicts that seriously restricted their latitude was issued.

[passage omitted]

[correspondent's postscript]

Leonid Kuchma's "strange prime ministership" will continue at least until a parliamentary session begins. When asked what he is going to do if parliamentarians once again do not accept his resignation, Leonid Kuchma said jokingly: "I am studying international covenants. Human rights are to be protected even in this situation."

Trade Union Congress Appeals to Prosecutor on Economy

LD0809180393 Kiev UKRINFORM in Ukrainian 0615 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM correspondent: "For Consideration of Ukraine's Prosecutor General"—UKRINFORM headline]

[Text] The population of Ukraine has been driven to a miserable existence and it is losing any hope for a better future. This is emphasized in an appeal to the prosecutor general sent by the members of the Second Congress of the Federation of Trade Unions of Ukraine, who are deeply concerned about the emergency situation that has taken shape in the economy and socio-political life of our country. This document says that hundreds of enterprises are on the verge of being closed down and mass job cuts and unemployment are becoming a reality. Reforms are virtually at a standstill. The bodies of power are carrying out a consistent and purposeful offensive against working people's rights. Over the past year the Cabinet of Ministers and Supreme Council have adopted over 10 normative acts that limit the participation of the working people in managing enterprises. The laws, decrees, and resolutions are being adopted without properly foreseeing their consequences. The privatization of industrial and trading enterprises is being carried out in favor of the nouveau riches and does not correspond to people's interests. The creation of favorable conditions for the withdrawal of raw materials, products, and other national riches abroad is also robbery of the people. Proceeding from these and other facts mentioned in the appeal, the congress proposes that the office of the prosecutor general of Ukraine should carry out an investigation and institute criminal proceedings against the top officials of the bodies of state power and management for ruining the economy and for driving the people of Ukraine to a miserable existence.

Government Threatens To Cut Gas Supplies

LD0809161293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1533 GMT 8 Sep 93

[By UKRINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Kiev, 8 Sep—The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has sent a telegram to ministries and departments, state administrations, and directors of enterprises, regardless of the forms of ownership. The telegram points out that the debts incurred by enterprises of the Ukrainian State Committee for Oil and Gas to Russia's Gas Industry for natural gas are not decreasing and that as of today they amount to over 706 billion rubles.

The telegram demands that they urgently pay what they owe for the gas, otherwise on 14 September the supply of gas to enterprises will be halted without warning.

Morozov Visits Sevastopol, Calms Fears Over Navy

LD0809153393 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0735 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Kiev 7 Sep—The news service of the Defense Ministry states that information on the agreement between the Ukrainian and Russian presidents has led to justified concern, not only among sailors of the Ukrainian Navy, but also among those who, having sworn allegiance to Ukraine, continue to serve in the Black Sea Fleet.

For this reason Defense Minister Colonel General Kostyantyn Morozov spent his working day on 6 September in Sevastopol. He informed Ukrainian sailors on the course of the negotiations and listened to their opinions. The leader of the military department visited sub-units of the Ukrainian Navy and spent some time on the escort ship, Hetman Sahaydachnyy. This is the first of the combat ships to join our state's navy.

Col. Gen. Morozov met personnel of the Ukrainian Naval Headquarters and answered numerous questions from officers and admirals. The main thing that the defense minister and sailors achieved at this meeting was the certainty that Ukraine will have its Navy despite all the difficulties. It will safely defend its coastal frontiers.

Russian Society Charged for 'Anti-Ukrainian Incidents'

WS0809130893 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1000 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] The Crimean Republic's Public Attorney Office pressed criminal charges today against organizers of the anti-Ukrainian incidents that took place in Symferopol last weekend. As has been reported before, representatives of the Russian Society of the Crimea held an unauthorized meeting in Lenin Square and later a blasphemous funeral for Ukrainian independence. They carried a coffin wrapped draped in black through the center of the city. In the square, in front of the Supreme Council building, they burned the coffin and buried the ashes. On Sunday at the same place, members of the Russian Society clashed with representatives of the Ukrainian Prosvita Society. Oleksiy Chulkovskyy, member of the Prosvita, suffered head injuries and several passers-by were wounded. As Valentyn Kuptsov, public attorney of the republic, told our reporter, organizers of these events are accused of violating the law governing meetings and street rallies and defacing state symbols. According to the Article 187, Paragraph 2 of the Ukrainian Criminal Law, they can receive up to two years in prison.

Belarus

U.S. Military Delegation To Discuss Conversion

WS0609144993 Minsk RID in Russian 1212 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Report by RID correspondent Boris Shavarskiy: "We Have Less Arms but More Military Delegations"]

[Text] Belarus has been literally flooded by foreign military delegations of late. Some days ago, NATO representatives ended their inspection visit to Belarus. A group of British inspectors dealing with the dismantlement of some types of the armaments has just arrived. On 6 September, a working visit of 15 U.S. military experts begins. The American guests, along with the Scientific- Technical Committee representatives and the Belarusian Defense Ministry, are going to discuss the issues of conversion and improvement of the lands of the former military cantonments that had formerly belonged to the strategic missile forces. The issue of cleaning the territory that had been polluted by nuclear fuel and oxidizers is of great importance.

Arrives on 'Working Visit'

WS0909104993 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] A delegation of U.S. military experts on conversion is in Minsk on a working visit. American experts along with their colleagues from the Belarusian Defense Ministry are discussing the forms and methods of implementation of the agreements on the transfer of the defense technology and potential to civic needs. The purpose of these talks is to find the optimal mutually beneficial means for the defense industry transformation to the output of consumer goods. The U.S. party has expressed its willingness to aid Belarus in this field.

Today, the U.S. experts are going to visit the Production Association Integral.

Vice Prime Minister: Union With Russia Essential

WS0909112193 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 2 Sep 93 p 1

[Report by Ivan Kuksa: "Conference in Brest"]

[Text] The successful resolution of complicated socioeconomic issues requires that the state and government authorities precisely coordinate all-level activities and seriously evaluate the situation on-sight. Government officials' meetings with staffs, managers of enterprises, leaders of organizations, and soviet authorities play an important part in this task.

One such meeting was held in Brest on 30 August with the participation of Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Zalomay, Minister of Defense Pavel Kozlovskiy, Minister of Justice Leonid Dashuk, and appropriate government officials. The government representatives spoke about the political and economic situation in the Republic and about prospects for solving current problems.

Vladimir Zalomay, who has lately been preoccupied with CIS matters and relations with former USSR republics, concentrated on the position of Belarus. He emphasized that the Republic's shake-up therapy is not yet over. Analysis of this process has shown that our economy cannot function without integration with Russia, since almost 70 percent of Belarusian trade is with Russia. Due to this, government efforts are aimed at establishing a close economic alliance. Inasmuch as such a process is sluggish within the CIS framework, a decision has been made to create such a union with Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. As a result, a statement on economic integration has appeared recently from Moscow.

All necessary documents that were practically initialed by the deputy prime ministers have been prepared for the upcoming meeting of prime ministers and state leaders. After the documents are signed we will implement a common customs space, the free flow of goods, services, and people, and we will lift export tariffs and most licenses. Moreover, the documents provide not only for tripartite but also for bilateral variants of the economic union, since judging from the news coming from Ukraine, there could be some difficulties with the ratification of the documents by the Ukrainian legislature.

It is obvious—the deputy prime minister underlined—that the monetary system is the most significant issue. Different variations of this system are being examined in the Republic currently; however remaining in the ruble zone seems to be the most efficient option. When all these complicated problems are solved, it is possible that beginning next year the ruble will be the sole currency in our country.

The deputy prime minister dwelt also on the government stance regarding collective security and the credit policy. After that, questions asked by those present at the meeting were answered.

Bilateral Agreement on Chernobyl Concluded in Moscow

WS0809144693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0505 GMT 8 Sep 93

[From the "At the Council of Ministers" feature]

[Text] In Moscow, an intergovernmental Belarusian-Russian agreement on 1993 joint measures for overcoming of the aftermath of the Chernobyl accident has been concluded. Deputy Prime Minister Ivan (?Selnyuk) signed the document on behalf of Belarus.

What does this document address? What aims does it pursue? First, the document provides for the coordination of efforts, the exchange of experts, participation in international conferences on radiation security and protection, and scientific-technical research. Second, the document foresees the creation of a permanent commission of plenipotentiary representatives to address Chernobyl issues and radiation protection. Third, a joint Chernobyl fund for constructing a Grodno medicine plant is being organized. By the way, Russia is going to assist in the treatment of people most seriously affected by radiation sickness in Russian hospitals, as well as grant material and technical aid for the implementation of the Belarusian Chernobyl cleanup program. In addition, the Moscow agreement anticipates joint financing for the most expensive projects related to the Chernobyl aftermath.

Foreign Minister on UNSC Membership

WS0909090493 Minsk BELORUSSKAYA NIVA in Russian 1 Sep 93 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Petr Kravchanka by unidentified BELINFORM reporter; place and date not given: "CIS Supports Candidacy of Belarus"]

[Text] [Reporter] Participants in the 24 August conference of CIS foreign ministers in Moscow decided to support the candidacy of Belarus for nonpermanent membership in the UN Security Council [UNSC]. How do you assess this decision?

[Kravchanka] First of all, I want to underline that this decision is just a preliminary step and we have no guarantees or grounds to claim that Belarus will, indeed, become a member of the Security Council. The situation is complex because there is only one seat on the Council designated for an East European country and the Czech Republic is also making efforts to fill that vacancy. If no agreement is reached within the regional group, the case will be resolved by secret ballot at a plenary session of the UN General Assembly.

We cannot rule out that we will have to be flexible and analyze the possibilities of our election to the Security Council. However, I want to emphasize that the decision in Moscow evidently demonstrates that Belarus does indeed have a chance of membership.

[Reporter] What would Council membership mean for Belarus?

[Kravchanka] It would have tremendous meaning. I view it as a chance for a breakthrough, for entering the international community, and for a revolutionary consolidation of our position in the world. We should not idealize the situation. The world still knows very little about us. Even the name of our state is sometimes spelled incorrectly. Membership in the Security Council, even if only for two years, would mean entering the category of moguls in world politics. Our vote and our stance would influence international developments. The world's largest information services would analyze Security Council decisions and each of its members, including Belarus, dozens of times a day. Thus, we would enter the international arena. We would have a chance to acquaint billions upon billions of people with our new sovereign state participating in analyzing complex political events around the world.

[Reporter] Not long ago, a motion from the Belarusian Foreign Ministry was circulated at the United Nations, requesting that Belarus be transferred to the group of less economically developed states. What prompted that motion?

[Kravchanka] Belarus has officially applied for transfer from Group B to Group C. This was prompted by excessive fees Belarus had to pay for maintaining UN peacekeeping forces. The Republic has not paid anything for the past two years and now owes large amounts of money to the United Nations. We believe that Belarus' fee for financing the UN budget and carrying out peacekeeping missions is too high. That is why we are trying to alter our position and reduce our fee. However, this is an extremely complicated process. The larger powers are not interested in changing the scale of fees. If the demands of Belarus and Ukraine are met, this would most likely lead to a review of the entire fee system. However, it is always easier to offend two states than carry additional financial burdens.

[Reporter] What other proposals does the Belarusian delegation have in store for the upcoming General Assembly session?

[Kravchanka] In fact, we have proposals regarding every direction of UN activities. Along with Russia, we are going to lobby the issue of environmental protection. We are also going to support Kazakhstan in its attempts to force a resolution on curbing drug trafficking. We have strong positions and good experience in the realm of disarmament. Aside from this, acting within the framework of the Third Committee that deals with human rights, we will coauthor a number of resolutions. We are also going to draw attention to the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Shushkevich Grants Interview to Japanese Media

WS0909104693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich has given an interview to the Japanese State Television and Radio Corporation. Japanese journalists were interested in the widest spectrum of issues: from the history of the creation of the CIS, CIS viability, the destruction of nuclear weapons stationed on Belarusian territory, to the possibility of investing in the Belarusian economy. In his reply to the first question from a television journalist, Stanislav Shushkevich said: We did not decide to dissolve the Soviet Union two years ago. We only clarified the state of affairs that had already taken place. We declared that the USSR as a geopolitical reality has ceased to exist. It was not our will, we just stated a fact. What have we managed to do and what have we not? I am deeply satisfied that we have avoided bloody conflicts, or how it is currently called, the Yugoslav way of development of events. I am convinced that we have prevented the worst scenario. However, I cannot say that we have totally done away with such a possibility. Much still remains to be done. We must be strong. However, we lack this quality because we did not manage to preserve the economic ties in the old form. It was out of the question to keep them in their old form, they had to be shifted to the new, market basis. We are working in this direction.

BSDH Urges 'Real Reforms' in Statement Marking Independence

WS0809120493 Minsk CHYRVONAYA ZMENA in Belarusian 31 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "We Have Gained and Lost Much Over Two Years"]

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Belarusian Social Democratic Assembly [BSDH] has issued a declaration on the second anniversary of the Supreme Soviet's 25 August 1991 decision to grant constitutional status to the Declaration of Sovereignty and proclaim independence. The BSDH declaration reads: "Our children are no longer sent to die in trouble spots, there is a lesser chance that Belarus will be involved in future Russian skirmishes which could lead to another civil war. At the same time, the two years of independence have seen many lost opportunities for laying the foundation of an independent state and an efficient economy."

The declaration stressed the futility of searches for "foreign benefactors" capable of maintaining the Belarusian economy. In the opinion of the BSDH, the latter can only be saved by means of "real reforms and people ready to implement them."

'Nationalist Degenerates' Mark Battle Date

PM0809110793 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 7 Sep 93 p 2

[Interview with Gennadiy Danilov, state secretary for the fight against crime and for national security, by Oleg Stepanenko; place and date not given: "Generals of Democracy Persist. Belarusian People's Front Dreams of Celebrating Victory Over the Russians"]

[Text] Minsk—The PRAVDA correspondents' center is receiving anxious telephone calls. A large-scale political provocation is scheduled in Minsk for 8 September. Preparations are being made to celebrate a Day of Belarusian Military Glory dedicated to "the victory over Russian troops at Orsha in 1541." The concern of the capital's residents is compounded by another circumstance. One of the initiators of this action—the nationalist organization "Belarusian Zgurtovaniye (Association—O.S.) of Troopers"—has announced its intention to begin setting up its own paramilitary detachments. I turned to G. Danilov, Belarusian state secretary for the fight against crime and for national security:

[Stepanenko] Gennadiy Ilich, how are we to understand all of this?

[Danilov] As an overt attempt by nationalist forces to destabilize the situation in the republic and to drive a wedge between the Belarusian and Russian peoples. These forces are well known: the leadership of the Belarusian People's Front, other right-wing bourgeois-nationalist parties, and the Belarusian Association of Troopers [BAT]. It was they who applied to Minsk City Soviet Executive Committee to hold a festival on the anniversary of the Battle of Orsha. They outlined an extensive program—a ceremonial rally and procession, a number of costly entertainments, and the taking of a symbolic oath of loyalty to the Republic of Belarus by reserve servicemen. At first the Executive Committee gave the go-ahead, although later, after giving the matter additional thought, it banned the rally, procession, and oath-taking. It did, however, permit a five-hour concert of music and literature, albeit with the demand that its detailed program be submitted in advance.

[Stepanenko] In other words, the city authorities did not cancel the notorious celebrations?

[Danilov] Right, and the organizers took advantage of the fact. They at once reported in newspapers which serve the democrats: "With the permission of the city soviet executive committee there will be another celebration of the Day of Belarusian Military Glory dedicated to the victory of the army of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania over the Muscovite army...." At the same time the organizing committee announced that it plans to have a symbolic oath-taking, a grand concert, and festive fireworks. All this provoked an explosion of indignation—the Supreme Soviet and the Council of Ministers received anxious telegrams, letters....

[Stepanenko] Representatives of the Belarusian Union of Afghan War Veterans and the republic's Association of Internationalist Servicemen have passed on to me an appeal to the Supreme Soviet, government, and people of Belarus with a request to publish it in PRAVDA, since not only press organs which wait upon the "democrats," like NARODNAYA GAZETA, but also centrist newspapers like SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA, for example, are refusing to do so.

[Danilov] We are also in possession of this appeal. The internationalist servicemen and the Afghanistan veterans make a principled assessment of the action. Inciting reserve servicemen to take an oath is not just a violation of the constitution and the Law on Universal Military Service Obligation and Military Service, they point out: It is political adventurism. Another moral question: What is a "symbolic oath"? What follows from it is only "symbolic" service to Belarus and its people; that is, a complete rejection of actual performance of duty to the republic.

[Stepanenko] The appeal states that the creation of the myth of eternal confrontation with the Russian people, using the involvement in the Battle of Orsha of Belarusian recruits in the armed retinues of the voivodas of Poland, was dictated by a desire to turn a five-centuries-old historical fact—a distorted fact, moreover—"to the benefit of the political needs of the Belarusian People's Front, the BAT, and their puppeteers across the ocean." You are a jurist and historian. What can you say about this?

[Danilov] From the juridical viewpoint no official celebration of the anniversary of the Battle of Orsha is envisaged in Belarus, and the action of the national "democrats" is unlawful. From the historical viewpoint it is totally groundless. I will start with the fact that Belarus did not exist as a sovereign state at the time. The Belarusian people came, not of their own will, under the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which carried out its policy under the patronage of the Polish crown and the Vatican. Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania used Belarusian recruits in the confrontation with Moscow. The battle of Polish-Lithuanian regiments against the Russians in 1514, which was an insignificant, sporadic battle (even authoritative historical encyclopedias and dictionaries, including Brockhaus, mention it in just one line) and did not influence the historical development of events, served Polish-Lithuanian ends. The internationalist servicemen and Afghanistan veterans are quite right. They are also right insofar as what is needed today is sensible steps toward people's unification, not disunity; toward the development of friendship between peoples and the strengthening of the economy through integration processes and mutual understanding with the fraternal Russian people above all, not victory reports to the Vatican and the transatlantic superpower across a destructive, 500-year stratum of history. I will add that a sharp protest in this regard has been issued by the Belarusian Officers' Union and the collectives of many military units.

[Stepanenko] Gennadiy Ilich, no less public alarm has been occasioned by the news of the BAT's intention to create its own paramilitary detachments, supposedly to instill order and to fight crime in conjunction with the militia. This could lead to a confrontation with a tragic outcome.

[Danilov] That cannot be ruled out. In their appeal to Stanislav Shushkevich and Vyacheslav Kebich the internationalist servicemen demanded that the creation of unconstitutional paramilitary formations should not be tolerated. It is known, they pointed out, from the experience of other states—the republics of the former USSR—that such formations consistently acquire the features of isolated groups which use strong-arm pressure, even including the unleashing of civil war, to achieve their ends.

[Stepanenko] There has not yet, however, been any response from the republic's leadership. On the other hand, the BAT leadership has declared that "the Afghanistan veterans could also create their own detachments." What is this, the road to another Karabakh, Abkhazia, Tajikistan?... One of the leaders of the republic's Association of Internationalist Servicemen recently visited the correspondent's center. He reported that the BAT already has a uniform ready for the members of its detachments. The detachments' leaders are also being trained. One can only guess at where the money is coming from. Does the government really not understand the danger?

[Danilov] Although there has been no response to the veterans' appeal, the government makes a realistic assessment of the situation and is keeping keeps an eye on it. The BAT's attempt to secure permission through official organs to create detachments has not been crowned with success. It was explained that detachments, if they are designed to ensure order, must be created and registered at enterprises or places of residence. To all appearances, this does not suit the BAT. The government will not permit the creation of unconstitutional paramilitary formations. Measures have also been taken to suppress the 8 September nationalist action. Rest assured that, for all the activeness of the generally small groups of nationalists, no one will allow them to destabilize the situation here in Belarus. On no account will they be allowed to violate the eternal fraternal bonds with the great Russian people. [Danilov ends]

As regards the Russian reader, I believe that my conversation with G. Danilov will help him to understand that here, in Belarus, only inveterate nationalist degenerates are opposed to Russia. They do not want him, the Russian reader, to know the whole truth. All those here in Belarus who are opposed to Russia and the Russians, who foster hatred and enmity toward them, who call the Russians enemies, and who thirst for the destruction of Russia—they all support Yeltsin and his team and their policy. Understandably so, because there can be no one dearer to their hearts than those who are leading Russia to its death.

Government Criticizes Celebration

LD0809195593 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 7 Sep 93

[Text] We are going to acquaint you with another official document: a statement of the government of the Republic of Belarus. The latest events indicate that a number of public and political organizations, in particular the Belarusian Popular Front and (BZV), have unfolded an intensive campaign for celebrating 8 September as the day of Belarusian military glory. In this connection the government deems it necessary to make the following statement:

Any attempts to present 8 September as a national holiday contradict the decision of the Supreme Soviet of the republic which has confirmed the list of holidays and celebrations marked by the Belarusian people. The interpretation itself of the Battle of Orsha on 8 September 1514 looks rather dubious. The historical facts testify that there were other parties to the Battle of Orsha apart from Russians and Belarusians. There are thus no grounds for using that date for worsening the relations between the two nations. Not political conditions but scientific analysis and strict objectivity should be taken as the basis for evaluating that historical event.

Supporting the decision of the Minsk City Executive Committee on banning celebrations of that event, the government of the Republic of Belarus resolutely disassociates itself from anti-Russian and anti-Russia slogans and the attempts to celebrate 8 September.

Government To Ban Commemoration

WS0809131693 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 8 Sep 93

["Text" of Belarusian Government statement; place and date not given]

[Text] The development of recent events demonstrates that a variety of social and political organizations, particularly the Belarusian Popular Front and the Belarusian Association of Servicemen, have launched a broad campaign to commemorate 8 September as the Day of Belarusian Military Glory.

In connection with this, the government makes the following statement:

1. Attempts to designate 8 September as a national holiday contradict the Belarusian Supreme Soviet decree listing official state holidays.

2. The exact interpretation of the Orsha battle on 8 September 1514 is quite vague. History indicates that not only Russian and Belarusian forces participated in this battle. Therefore, it is groundless to use this date to antagonize relations between these two countries. Scientific analyses and precise objectivity, not political opportunism, should be the basis for assessing this historic event. Supporting the decision of the Minsk City Executive Council to ban the celebration of this holiday, the Belarusian Government decisively dissociates itself from the anti-Russian slogans under which the organizers of the so-called 8 September holiday are planning to celebrate.

The government declares that historical speculations will neither destroy the fraternal ties existing between the Belarusian and Russian people nor darken relations between the two Slavic countries.

Armenia

Ter-Petrosyan, Rafsanjani Discuss Karabakh Conflict

NC0809175493 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1553 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 8 Sep (ARMENPRES)—Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan held a 20-minute telephone conversation with Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani today.

The Armenian president informed the Iranian president that Armenia understands the sensitive approach of the Iranian public, press, and parliament toward developments in Azerbaijan and does not regard the occasional sharp reactions as a hostile disposition.

The leaders of the two countries noted that there are serious prospects for developing and consolidating bilateral relations.

The Armenian president also said that in his opinion the Karabakh conflict has gone beyond its critical limit and that at the conclusion of the Moscow talks in the coming days serious shifts might take place toward the cessation of the military operations and the peaceful resolution of the conflict.

President Rafsanjani reiterated his country's serious concern over the aggravation of the relations between the neighboring countries, noting in particular that the continued operations of the Nagorno-Karabakh Armed Forces no longer make sense to Iran and the international community. He underlined the need to immediately end the military operations through talks.

Rafsanjani pledged Iran's readiness to establish close friendly relations and multifaced cooperation with Armenia.

Further on Phone Call

LD0809171993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1703 GMT 8 Sep 93

[by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan September 8 TASS—Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan discussed the situation in the region during a 20-minute telephone conversation on Wednesday.

The press service of the Armenian president reported that in Ter- Petrosyan's opinion, "the Karabakh conflict is reaching its critical point." Only unofficial consultations in the framework of the CSCE Minsk group due to open in Moscow in the next few days can bring about positive changes for reaching the political settlement in the region.

For his part, the Iranian president expressed deep concern of the Iranian leadership over the aggravation of relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan. He said that it is necessary to achieve the speediest cessation of military operations in the zone of the conflict.

Both presidents expressed a common opinion that Iranian-Armenian relations have good prospects for deepening and developing. The Iranian president expressed the readiness to further promote the development of friendly ties and multilateral cooperation between his country and Armenia.

Foreign Minister Criticizes Turkey's Approach to Karabakh

NC0909074793 Yerevan SNARK in English 0605 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, September 8 (SNARK)—Vahan Papazyan, the Armenian foreign ministry [as received], has accused Turkey of the non-constructive approach to the Karabakh conflict solving. In letter to Warren Christopher, the USA state secretary, it is said "Armenia does and will do everything possible to explain to the Karabakh authorities the importance of the fulfilling the UN's resolution and to support its constructive participation in the process of peaceful settlement." Simultaneously, it is noted "the Minsk group of CSCE, entirely, as the other international organizations might reject from false-ideological resistance in recognizing Karabakh as the conflicting side." The Foreign Ministry requests to make clear in the formulation suggested by Minsk group, "the ceasing of military actions", involving to the text "the destroying of the blockade, organized by Azerbaijan". "Because of the violations of the UN's resolutions till Azerbaijan and Turkey have succeeded to be out of critics." Vahan Papazyan replies to the message of the state secretary, there he expressed anxiety on the attack of Karabakh troops at south of Azerbaijan

Situation on Armenian-Turkish Border 'Unchanged'

LD0809154993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 8 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The situation along the border between Armenia and Turkey remains unchanged. This was stated by Major General Aleksandr Babenko, chief of the Armenian operational military group of Russian border troops. In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent he noted that Russian border guards serving along the border had not recorded any conflict situations, exchange of fire, or firing in the direction of Armenian territory. Babenko recalled that the Russian border troops were protecting Armenia's state border with Turkey and Iran in accordance with the treaty signed on 30 September last year.

'Tense Situation' Reported

NC0809202293 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] The situation on the Armenian-Turkish border: A tense situation has arisen on the border with Turkish since the beginning of September. Gunfire was opened on Armenian territory twice in recent days. An ARMENPRES correspondent met Lieutenant Colonel Gennadiy Kondratov, a senior officer on the staff of the Armenia group of border troops of the Russian Security Ministry, to obtain details about these incidents.

In accordance with the agreement Armenia and Russia signed on 30 September 1992, the Russian Federation guarantees the inviolability and security of Armenia's borders with Turkey and Iran.

First of all, said Gennadiy Kondratov, the fire opened by the Turks—as a result of which a number of bullets reached Artashatskiy Rayon—was probably linked to the Kurdish rebels' operations in the neighboring countries.

Whereas the second shooting—which ITAR-TASS and then the newspaper ARMENIA mistakenly reported as having taken place on 6 September—which actually took place on 7 September, was directed against the 14th outpost of the Russian border guards in Armavirskiy [Oktemberyanskiy] Rayon.

In both cases, our border commissar lodged a written protest to the Turkish side. No reply was received as of 1200 on 8 September.

What is the situation now? The movement and (?concentration) of military hardware has been continuing on the other side of the line all along the Armenian-Turkish border, day and night, particularly toward Gyumri, in a most active manner.

We are registering all the changes in the situation and are taking them into account.

Asked if the aggressive operations provoked by the Turks against the Russian servicemen might engender a reaction from the Russian leadership, like in the case on the Afghan-Tajikistan border, Kondratov found it difficult to reply.

As for the operational situation on the Armenian-Iranian border, Kondratov noted that the status quo is being maintained there and everything is calm.

'Massive' Azerbaijani Shelling of Lachin Corridor

NC0809150693 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1429 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 8 Sep (ARMENPRES)—The Azerbaijani formations in Zangelanskiy Rayon violated the cease-fire agreement and subjected the Karabakh detachments' positions at the southern sector of Lachin humanitarian corridor to massive Grad and long-range artillery shelling yesterday. Casualty figures are being determined. The Karabakh side is adhering to the cease-fire agreement.

Azerbaijan Violates Cease-Fire

NC0809151793 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 0542 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Yerevan, 8 Sep (ARMENPRES)—After a three-day respite, the relative calm on Armenia's southern borders was again disrupted last night. The armed formations in Zangelanskiy Rayon shelled the border positions in Kapanskiy Rayon using Howitzers and firearms. The enemy based in Zangelanskiy Rayon opened artillery fire on the defensive positions near Nyuvadi in Megrinskiy Rayon at night. The Armenian side refrained from retaliating. Our side suffered casualties.

The border posts on Noyemberyanskiy Rayon were shelled from Kazakhskiy Rayon last night.

Prime Minister on Economic Integration, Karabakh

MK0909105493 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Sep 93 pp 1, 3

[Interview with Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan by Liana Minasyan under "Integration" rubric; place and date not given: "'For Two Years We Have Lived Damaging Each Other.' Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan on the New-Type Ruble Zone"]

[Excerpts] [Minasyan] You signed a document on creating a new type of ruble zone. What obligations does it impose on Armenia and its partners?

[Bagratyan] So far this is merely a document of intentions. The states that signed it are now expressing their agreement to go through a particular procedure to join the new-type ruble zone. For the six countries that signed this agreement—Russia, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Belarus—there was a need for it—an objective need dictated by life. The introduction of a national currency logically leads to further production decline. This is especially tangible to small states. In order to find civilized forms of regulation and not to deceive each other with credit emissions, we have signed the agreement. This is simple: Armenia has a trade deficit with Russia since the price of energy is growing fast, much faster than, let us say, the footwear that we produce, and a trade surplus with some other country. Therefore we must cut trade with Russia to such levels as we are capable of balancing with our sales to it. Moreover, it needs to be realized that there should be no particularly sharp differences in the tax and financial policy of states which only three years ago were part of one country. This accounts for Armenia's concrete position—the agreement is economically sound and beneficial. I do not think that this union can damage real sovereignty.

Whether we will be able to carry out the agreement in practice depends on how decently our partners behave. For two years we have lived damaging each others' interests. Now everyone has understood that it is impossible to live at the expense of others. Armenia wants to be a faithful partner, it will be a consistent partner, and I hope that this will be reciprocal.

[Minasyan] Is this agreement an inevitability caused by the difficult economic situation, or does it have a more optimistic perspective?

[Bagratyan] The perspective may appear, but the immediate aim is to prevent further economic decline and not to lose each others' markets and our traditional partners.

[Minasyan] Does it provide for a single tax and financial policy?

[Bagratyan] The agreement envisions a single methodology for tax policy. One could argue about this particular provision, but two taxes must have identical rates—the profit and the value added tax. [passage omitted]

[Minasyan] How does this agreement correlate with the principles of the CIS states' economic union?

[Bagratyan] In the economic union matters bearing on banking, financial, and tax policy have been defined in a more tentative form. The agreement does this more rigidly. In the future the following could happen: Either all parties will sign the agreement or, if the mechanism of cooperation within the CIS framework is an economic union, the treaty we have signed will not work to the full. The economic union provides for a customs policy. Within the framework of the ruble zone there must be no difference in customs policy. With time, either the economic union will prove fictitious and everyone will realize that real cooperation can proceed within the ruble zone, or, if the documents signed within the framework of the economic union become dominant, part of the countries inside it will find themselves incapable of being tied by the ruble. Though this will not happen at once, this question will nonetheless arise eventually.

[Minasyan] Many think that financial "infusions" into the former union republics are an unbearable burden for the Russian budget.

[Bagratyan] We have signed a document on 20 billion [currency not specified] for Armenia. The deficit in trade between our countries is 40 billion rubles, but this is not quite the real figure. Today we cannot import energy from other countries, even if it is cheaper and closer. Communications are needed for that. It takes years to build such a mechanism. But for this factor, the real trade balance would appear somewhat different. The imposition of an export duty on energy supplies has put the importing states on their knees.

[Minasyan] Debts can become a lever for political pressure....

[Bagratyan] Economics is concentrated politics. Of course, a tough economic policy is forcing partners to make political concessions. If Russia sticks to a very tough policy, its place will sooner or later be taken by other counties—this possibility also exists.

[Minasyan] If Azerbaijan joins the CIS, would that somehow change its relations with Armenia? Can warring countries coexist within the Commonwealth?

[Bagratyan] At least there will be greater opportunities for dialogue. I will not hasten to talk about any immediate changes, but at least it will be easier to communicate—for instance, about transit, the blockade, and so forth. We shall meet more often and this cannot make things worse.

As for two conflicting states finding themselves within the CIS.... Not only officially, formally, but also de facto a war is going on between Karabakh and Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

[Minasyan] Is it easier or more difficult to deal with the new people in Azerbaijan in political matters?

[Bagratyan] The experience of the last few years has shown that any Azerbaijani leader will lose, regardless of what position he occupied earlier, unless he understands and honestly admits that there is a problem between Azerbaijan and Karabakh. Karabakh exists and it must be reckoned with. Any other approach is clearly doomed.

[Minasyan] There are two state models in Armenia and Karabakh—politically and economically. How do they coexist?

[Bagratyan] The people of Karabakh, as part of the Armenians, are different from others—there is even a difference in their mentality. The Karabakh people have always been greater "socialists" than we. They created a rigid centralized model of administration. In principle, no other model can exist there now.

We have leveled prices—it was necessary to liberalize prices to enable the Karabakh economy to work. The economy contains the greatest potential for organizing society. People are doing business and they have no time for trifles like politics. The army needs an efficient home front. It was precisely disorganization on the logistical level that caused Karabakh's failures last year. [passage omitted]

Azerbaijan

Aliyev Says Azerbaijan Ready To Join CIS

LD0809224793 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 2000 GMT 8 Sep 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] According to a report by the TURAN agency, a meeting was held in Moscow this afternoon between [Azerbaijani parliament chairman] Geydar Aliyev and

Turkish Prime Minister [Tansu Ciller]. And here is another report from the same agency:

During his meeting with the supreme leadership of the Russian Federation, Geydar Aliyev made it clear that Azerbaijan is prepared to integrate not only in the economic but also the military- political structure of the CIS. As this agency reports, citing an informed source in the Russian president's apparatus, it has not been ruled out that Azerbaijan will provide serious competition to Armenia as Russia's southern military bridgehead.

Party Opposes Membership

NC0809130793 Yerevan SNARK in English 0623 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 7 (SNARK)—The recent extraordinary session of the Azerbaijani Party of National Independence adopted a resolution against Azerbaijani joining to the CIS, and estimated such a step as "national tragedy". "Azerbaijan has neither historical nor juridical grounds to take such a decision", said the party chairman Etibar Mamedov.

The session decided not to bring a candidature to the presidential elections.

The adopted resolution notes that withdrawal of the Elchibey administration apparatus is pointing that no political force is able to rule the country on its own in the nearest future.

Others Give Mixed Reaction

MK0909091693 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 50, 9 Sep 93 (Signed to Press 8 Sep) p 5

[Mekhman Gafarly report under "Protests" rubric: "The Opposition Is Against Azerbaijan's Entering the CIS. Azeri 'Gray Wolves' Leader Detained and Released in Baku"]

[Excerpt] Acting President Geydar Aliyev's statement, which he made in Moscow, about the possibility of Azerbaijan's joining the CIS has received mixed reaction in the republic. Etibar Mamedov, chairman of the Party of National Independence of Azerbaijan [PNIA], immediately opposed it, saying that if the republic accedes to the CIS, his party will launch a political struggle against the current authorities. A PNIA congress which took place in Baku a few days ago, fully supported its leader's position.

Leaders of the People's Front, the Democratic Party of Azerbaijan, and the Mussavat party are taking a similar line. However, Tofik Kasumov, former Azerbaijani Foreign Minister and a member of the National Assembly and the People's Front board, said in an address to parliament that "if Azerbaijan's entering the CIS helps to resolve the Karabakh conflict, the opposition is ready to support this initiative of Aliyev's."

Other political parties, such as New Azerbaijan, Independent Azerbaijan, and the Social Democratic Party, immediately supported Aliyev's idea of the republic's joining the Commonwealth.

In the meantime, in Baku on 7 September at 1800 Iskender Gamidov, leader the of the Azeri "Gray Wolves" and the republic's former internal affairs minister, was detained in the headquarters of the People's Front. He was charged with plotting a military coup. As SEGODNYA's correspondent was advised at the Azerbaijan Internal Affairs Ministry press center, the republic's law enforcement bodies have information suggesting that Gamidov and his "gray wolves" have been preparing an armed uprising against the present authorities. Four hours later, however, the republic's "gray wolf" was released. This was prompted by the fact that Gamidov is a people's deputy and parliamentary consent is needed for his arrest. Within the next few days the republic's law enforcement bodies intend to task the National Assembly for such permission. [passage omitted]

Defense Ministry Reports Armenian Shelling

NC0809184693 Baku AZERTAC in English 1723 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Baku, September 8 (AZERTAC)—During last night and today in the morning Armenian fighting helicopters repeatedly violated Azerbaijan air space in the Zangelanskiy district. According to the Azerbaijan Defence Ministry, the situation remains very complicated in this south-west district of the Republic. During last two days this region is continuously subjected to artillery shelling of Armenian Armed Forces. Today on opening the assault the partly occupied Kubatlinskiy district of Azerbaijan. [sentence as received] The enemy tried to seize the village Muganli. However the troops of the National Army repulsed an attack. According to the Defence Ministry, there is a lull in other places of the front.

Further on Attack

NC0809191293 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of National Security Border Guards Administration has informed an AZERTAC correspondent that the Armenian Armed Forces launched a strong attack on Zangelan from Shayikhly in Zangelanskiy Rayon and Khanly in Kubatlinskiy Rayon this morning. The attack began with the shelling of Zangelan with artillery guns and Grad rocket launchers. Thanks to the resistance of our fighters, the attack was obstructed. The Armenians were forced to retreat after suffering many casualties.

Rally Demands APF Be Disbanded; Officials Dismissed

NC0809195193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 6 Sep 93

[Text] A rally has been continuing in Nakhichevan's Azadlyg Square for the past three days. More than 10,000 city residents and citizens from Sharurskiy, Babeskskiy, and Shakhbuzskiy Rayons have demanded that the Azerbaijani People's Front [APF] be disbanded and its armed groups be disarmed. Rashid Gasanov, first deputy chairman of the Nakhichevan Supreme Assembly, addressed the rally and informed the participants that Siyavush Mustafayev, an active APF member and deputy internal affairs minister of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, has been relieved of his duties at his request. Meanwhile, Gafar Mamedov and [name indistinct], deputy chairmen of the Nakhichevan Supreme Soviet, have asked the Nakhichevan Supreme Assembly to be relieved of their duties. As for Shahmerdan Dzhafarov, commander of the Nakhichevan border guards, he has resigned. The armed units affiliated with the APF in the past have been integrated into the Azerbaijani National Army.

Latest Government Appointees Profiled

PM0809140193 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Sep 93 p 3

[Vladimir Urbay report: "The Seventh Minister. Latest Change in Azerbaijan's Military Leadership"]

[Text] We have already grown used to the fact that any major failure on the Karabakh front entails a change of defense minister. In February Rakhim Kaziyev resigned, and Major General Dadash Rzayev was appointed minister. In July Prime Minister Surret Gyseynov began to combine this post, and soon we learned of the appointment of Major General Vakhid Musayev as minister.

Incidentally, Musayev had been first chief of the Azerbaijan General Staff, and was removed from this position for defeats in Karabakh in the campaign early in 1992. Then he was appointed deputy defense minister for rear services, and at the beginning of August of this year—minister. The general's return "full circle" has changed nothing at the front. Nor could it change anything in the current situation.

Now, 3 September, a report has appeared from Baku about important changes in the government effected by Geydar Aliyev, the acting head of state. Gasan Gasanov, who worked as prime minister under President Ayaz Mutalibov and subsequently as Azerbaijan's permanent representative to the United Nations, has been confirmed as minister of foreign affairs by the National Assembly. Geydar Aliyev believes that this appointment should be examined "in terms of raising the standard of Azerbaijan's diplomacy." But, in the opinion of observers, the change of leadership in the foreign policy department is primarily connected with the one-sided orientation toward Turkey of former leader Elchibey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The reinforcement of the Ministry of Defense was presumably carried out for the same reasons. Maj. Gen. Mamedrafi Ismail ogly Mamedov has been appointed the new minister (the seventh since this post was established in fall 1991). He graduated from the Rear Services and Transport Military Academy and has "Afghan" combat experience. He served in many regions of the former USSR, but never in his native Azerbaijan. He has recently served in Moscow. Maj. Gen. Mamedov is an entirely new man in government. Thus the "Karabakh millstone" will not yet hang around his neck.

It remains to be said that the Azerbaijan parliament has given its consent for criminal proceedings to be instituted against ex-Minister Rakhiman Kaziyev, who is accused of surrendering Shusha and Lachin, and has also been named as one of the leaders of a separatist movement in the south of the republic.

Georgia

Kobalia Seeks Renewed Abkhaz-Georgian Friendship

LD0809183493 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1540 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Zugdidi, 8 Sep—According to IBERIA news agency, [rebel leader] Loti Kobalia said in an address to the Abkhaz side: "We have to do a lot to restore friendly relations between our peoples, who have coexisted for decades and are blood relatives. The railway line from the Senaki station to Abkhazia on the territory under the control of the National Guard will be safe. May this be our first step toward friendship between us."

Russian Side Cancels Talks

LD0909084493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Today's regular meeting in Sukhumi of the joint commission on a settlement in Abkhazia will not take place. The press center of the Russian section of the joint commission said today that this decision had been made because of two things that have just happened in the region. The first of these is the seizure of military equipment in Galskiy Rayon of Abkhazia by Georgian forces opposed to the government. This equipment was due to be withdrawn from the conflict zone. The second incident is the holding of five hostages in Georgia. The hostages were working as part of a rescue team. The statement by the Russian section of the joint commission appeals to the Georgian side to take effective steps to ensure that the captured equipment is returned without delay and that such incidents do not reoccur in future.

Abkhaz Side Refuses To Participate

LD0909111293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 9 Sep 93

[Text] Moscow September 9 TASS—The Abkhazian side also refused to participate in a regular meeting of the joint commission on a settlement in abkhazia, scheduled in Sukhumi for Thursday, says a statement by the press service of the Abkhazian parliament circulated here today.

Defense Ministry Sees 'Critically Tense' Situation

LD0809193293 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1800 GMT 8 Sep 93

["Statement of the Georgian Defense Ministry"]

[Text] The political situation in Georgia has become critically tense. The crime situation has worsened. Chaos is rife in the country. Representatives of the criminal world are robbing and plundering the civilian population, attacking representatives of the law-enforcement bodies, and stealing arms and ammunition. Serious political confrontation, centered on Samegrelo rayon, is assisting the criminal situation.

Illegal armed formations of the former president's supporters, which harbor many criminal individuals, are taking advantage of the current complex socioeconomic situation and trying to realize their revanchist goals. They are trying to provoke the authorities to use force and then blame the authorities for the consequences. An obvious example of this was the recent incident when [words indistinct] group of people threw grenades at a police patrol post. What we feared most of all occurred here—a Georgian shed another Georgian's blood.

The Georgian Defense Ministry supports the course of the present authorities which is aimed at establishing concord and inner peace, and calls on the opposing side not to take the step which would cause a fratricidal war in Georgia.

Protests Blocking of Poti Railway

LD0809201593 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1630 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] The Georgian Defense Ministry circulated another statement today in which it protested against blocking of the railway by the illegal armed formations of the former president's supporters.

The statement also fully denies the reports published by the IBERIA SPEKTRI, which confirms the views of the former government that one of the sections of the railway in the region of Poti had been blocked by the representatives of the town authorities. The fact of the matter is that this section of the railway is being controlled by the illegal armed formations.

Official Denies Zviadists Entered Lanchkhuti Rayon

LD0809162493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Telephone interview with Gia Nachkebia, deputy head of the Lanchkhuti administration, by unidentified announcer—live]

[Excerpt] As you know, Georgian media reported yesterday that 300 people from Loti Kobalia's units, armed with seven pieces of heavy equipment, crossed a bridge on the Rioni River, entered Lanchkhuti Rayon, and occupied one of the villages. We have contacted Mr. Gia Nachkebia, deputy head of the Lanchkhuti administration, who is now on the telephone line.

[Announcer] What is the situation in Lanchkhuti and are the reports which I mentioned true?

[Nachkebia] Loti Kobalia's units have indeed crossed the Rioni River, but they camped down in Abasha rayon, in the villages of (Gulega) and Ketilari bordering on Lanchkhuti Rayon. They have not entered Lanchkhuti Rayon itself. Last night was calm here, with no hostilities taking place.

[Announcer] What is the situation in the town itself, for instance, with fuel, energy, and bread supplies?

[Nachkebia] The situation is very complex. There are frequent power cuts. Fuel is in very short supply. [passage omitted]

Parliamentary Delegation Visits Mingreliya

LD0809132693 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0800 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] [Announcer] As you know, a Georgian parliamentary delegation has visited Samegrelo [Mingreliya] to study the situation on the spot and report to the republic's population and parliament. Vazha Adamia, who was in the delegation, returned to Tbilisi yesterday and spoke with our correspondent Nino Tskhoidze.

[Begin recording] [Tskhoidze] You returned from Samegrelo late last night and must have firsthand information about the current situation there.

[Adamia] Representatives of the all-Georgian Kostava Society, the Chavchavadze Society, the Greens, and the Monarchist Conservative Party flew to Samegrelo two days ago.

There were attempts from both sides to prevent us from reaching Samegrelo. Finally we landed at Senaki military airport, which is now under Georgian, not Russian control. The reception was good. We stayed overnight in Senaki and had meetings with representatives of former authorities. Igor Narmania visited us and discussions continued well into the night. I was asked if I wanted to speak by telephone with Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Unfortunately, I was not ready for this. However, I spoke on the telephone with a former Supreme Council Deputy Zaur Kobalia, who contacted me from Zugdidi, asking me to go there for talks. In Tbilisi, I had agreed with Loti Kobalia that we would meet in Senaki. However, the people in Zugdidi insisted that our parliamentary group go there and meet former Supreme Council deputies. We wanted to meet and talk to as many people representing former authorities as possible.

Yesterday morning I visited the Senaki prefecture, where, in my capacity as a minister and chairman of a parliamentary commission, I invited heads of local administrative bodies—the prosecutor, head of the security service, and the acting police chief. I had talks with them. Unfortunately, the acting administrator was not available. The leaders of these administrative bodies told me that no violence had been used against them and working conditions were adequate. They asked me whether it would be regarded as treason if they remained in their posts. I told them that I had a meeting planned with Loti Kobalia in the same building in Senaki about an hour later and promised to ask whether he was planning to dismiss them. As for retaining their posts, I asked them to continue with their duties. I would like to stress that no violence had been used against them.

Later, I had confidential talks with Loti Kobalia. The rest of the delegation had gone to Abasha to study the situation there. Kobalia denied rumors about his alleged plans to sack the acting administrator and heads of administrative bodies. He said that he would create normal working conditions for them. What he said seemed to be trustworthy, because, for example, government forces control the airport in Senaki, where we landed. Both sides agreed that the airport is off limits to unauthorized persons.

Our media were reporting that the opposite side had blockaded the rail line although I became convinced that it was not. However, there is no traffic on sections linking Samtredia with Poti and Sukhumi because there are no safety guarantees. I discussed this issue with Kobalia, who proposed the creation of a joint group, be it an armed group that would protect the trains from Poti to Samtredia and from Samtredia to Sukhumi.

[Tskhoidze] What are their specific demands?

[Adamia] I met parents of people who were said to have been arrested: Boris Lashkarava, Kakha Tsuleiskiri, Valeri Tsaava, Koba Kvirkaia, Tengiz Tsurtsumia, Merab Kurua, and Jambul Aleskerov. These people are said to be detained near Tskhenistskali and Martvili. The Zviadists forwarded demands they believe can be met immediately. These include disengagement of armed forces, lifting of what they believe to be an economic blockade of Samegrelo, suspension of the signing of a treaty with Russia until the two Georgian sides reach a consensus, and to give them an opportunity to take part in the political struggle. This struggle could be conducted through rallies, their own television and radio stations, and so on.

[Tskhoidze] How can this issue be settled?

[Adamia] Only by peaceful means, i.e. negotiations. They are ready for a dialogue. Naturally, we should be ready too. [end recording]

Parliamentary Delegation Heads for Batumi

NC0809132993 Yerevan SNARK in English 1058 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tbilisi, 8 September (SNARK)—Today in the afternoon the Georgian Parliament deputies group at the head of the vice-speaker Vakhtang Rcheushvili [surname as received] left Tbilisi for Batumi. Among the members of the delegation there are also the vice-premier Avtandil Margiani, the Georgian Supreme Court chairman Mindia Ugrekhelidze and other officials.

It is supposed that today in Batumi intermediary of the Adjarian Parliament chairman Aslan Abashidze there will be the negotiations of the Georgian delegation with the Gamsakhurdia's supporters representatives. The main aim today is to avoid the civil war, the Georgian Parliament Vice-Speaker Vakhtang Rcheushvili said to the SNARK reporter. We are ready to make any concessions. The single thing that can't be dealt with is the keeping the Georgian territorial unity, he said. According to the words of the Vice- Speaker, Eduard Shevardnadze also expressed the willingness to leave for the western Georgia.

Former Supreme Council Deputies Present Demands

LD0809174593 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1540 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Zugdidi, 8 Sep—Ana Chavchavadze, head of the press center of the former Supreme Council of the Republic of Georgia, told an IBERIA correspondent that a meeting was held in Zugdidi yesterday between a group of six of the Georgian parliament and deputies of the former Supreme Council.

The deputies of the former Supreme Council raised the following issues:

1. Every kind of negotiations on concluding an agreement with Russia should be stopped.

2. The troops of the present government should be withdrawn from Imereti.

3. Blockade of the Samtredia-Poti highway should be lifted.

4. Political opposition forces should be given the chance for political activities.

The deputies of the former Supreme Council demanded that these issues be submitted to the session of the Georgian parliament.

Supreme Council Deputy Chairman Replaced in South Ossetia

LD0809182593 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1540 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tskhinvali, 8 Sep—On the orders of Torez Kulumbekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the so-called Republic of South Ossetia, Alan Chochiyev has been released from his duties as first deputy chairman of the Supreme Council.

A. Abesov has been appointed deputy chairman of the Supreme Council.

South Ossetia Journalists Assail Yeltsin-Shevardnadze Meeting

LD0809183293 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1540 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Tskhinvali, 8 Sep—The board of the journalists' union of the so-called Republic of South Ossetia has sent a telegram to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khazbulatov, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

The telegram says: "Journalists, as well as the whole population of South Ossetia are exasperated by the results of the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Eduard Shevardnadze on 23 August. South Ossetian journalists are addressing you with a pressing request that Russia should not sign an agreement with Georgia until the genocide from the Georgia side is qualified politically and legally and the issues of South Ossetia and Abkhazia are resolved."

Latvia

Russian Navy Commander Visits Liepaja

LD0809162893 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1100 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander of the Russian Navy; Admiral Vladimir Yegorov, commander of the Baltic Fleet; and other officials are visiting Liepaja today. Yesterday in Riga this delegation met with the leadership of the Northwestern Group of Russian Forces and Sea Captain Gaidis Zeibots, commander of the Latvian naval forces. Zeibots told Latvian radio that the talks were very productive.

Russia's strategic interests in Liepaja are based on the fact that Russia has invested a huge sum of money in the construction of the naval base. In addition, there is no place available for the accommodation of Russian navy officers withdrawn from Latvia.

The issue of the Pape range, situated not far from Liepaja, was also discussed. Phosphorus was washed out on the sea shore after chemical bomb dropping there. Admiral Gromov promised that this issue would be tackled.

Admiral Yegorov will leave Liepaja in the afternoon.

Talks Fail To Reach Agreement

LD0809211193 Riga Radio Riga International in English 2030 GMT 8 Sep 93

[Text] Admiral Feliks Gromov, the Russian navy commander in chief, visited Riga on Tuesday to coordinate pullout timetables with his Latvian counterpart, Gaidis Zeibots. Both negotiators agreed that so far Russian naval withdrawals had been timely and orderly. The main debate is caused by Russia's [decision] to retain the Liepaja military port for five more years. Latvia wants the unit dismantled earlier than that but Russia refuses, citing the port's great strategic importance. Zeibots reminded the Russian delegation that the Russian navy Command had made a commitment to repatriate the naval forces by December 1994. Thus the Leipaja military port remains to be repeatedly considered at interstate talks that may resume as soon as later this month.

Lithuania

Gylys Delivers Letter to Warren Christopher

WS0809085193 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1155 GMT 7 Sep 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 326]

[Text] Vilnius, Sep 6, ELTA—Lithuania's Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys has delivered a letter to US Secretary Warren Christopher and expressed gratitude for continual and uncompromised US support to Lithuania in the process of the Russian army pullout. Keeping to its international obligations Russia has withdrawn its army from Lithuania. "We view the Russian army pullout as an important step in Lithuania's and Russia's relations and regard it as precedent for another move, that is speedy and unconditional withdrawal of the Russian army from Latvia and Estonia". Mr. Gylys also expressed belief in the letter that cooperation between the two countries would be promoted in all possible spheres.

Russian Envoy on Claims in Future Negotiations

WS0909104293 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 2 Sep 93 No. 169 p 4

[Interview with Viktor Isakov, head of the Russian delegation to negotiations with Lithuania and special envoy, by Igor Sedykh under the "Opinions" rubric; place and date not given: "V. Isakov: 'Claims Will Be Mutual'"]

[Text] [Sedykh] **Will any document outlining Russian troop withdrawal be signed?**

[Isakov] We proposed that Lithuania sign an agreement, but your country refused. The military has already resolved and signed all other documents concerning purely technical matters. I am talking about the political document that we have been debating for a year and a half. On 5 August, however, four weeks before the completion of the Army withdrawal, the Lithuanian delegation introduced a new draft agreement. After having reached an agreement, the presidents expressed their regret over this fact, but the Army left without any formal document.

[Sedykh] **The declaration coordinated by the presidents contains some very remarkable plans. What is the next stage?**

[Isakov] We have been discussing these plans with Lithuania for a long time. Your country does not object, and we will continue our negotiations.

[Sedykh] **When will the negotiations be resumed?**

[Isakov] It is hard to tell. For example, I have not been on leave for two years. I suppose that the negotiations will be continued in September or October. Am I not entitled to a short vacation?

[Sedykh] **Does this mean that there will be no talks before the presidents meet?**

[Isakov] I think not. Has the meeting already been fixed?

[Sedykh] **The middle of September was mentioned.**

[Isakov] The declaration contains no dates but only relative agreements. I have no position on this issue because there is no information.

[Sedykh] **What issues should the negotiations address first of all?**